

**From:** [Christopher M. Campagna](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** S-UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:20:45 PM

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Uber is the best thing to happen to transportation in DC in a generation. Taxi's are total embarrassment, UBER will be the best thing that ever happened to sorry DC taxi cab companies. The local cab companies will wither improve their service, the condition of the cabs (currently atrocious), and hey what a novel idea the drivers will actually have to know where things are, and bonus HOW TO GET THERE or they will be out of business. DC cabs are pathetic, and an embarrassment to the city.

Uber is providing a first class alternative, don't screw it up. They are using technology, and innovation to provide DC citizens and visitors with a superior transportation alternative.

STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE AMMENDMANT!

Christopher M. Campagna, MICP

**President**

**Braddock Commercial Real Estate Services**

[REDACTED] - Mobile

braddockcommercial - Skype

[REDACTED] - email

**From:** [Pruitt, Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Amendment removing Minimum Fare Language  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:01:38 PM

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Councilmember Brown:

I am writing to ask you to support Councilmember Evans' amendment that removes minimum fare language from the Uber bill.

Thanks very much.


Bryan Pruitt  
910 M Street NW #125  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Mark Abdoo](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Councilman Evan's Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:01:10 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania:

Please support Councilman Evan's amendment that would not establish a minimum for Uber. I find it deeply disturbing that the Council would even consider language such as that in paragraph 8(c) of the so-called Uber ammendment, as it thwarts competition and does not have the best interests of consumers in mind. I hope you will do the right thing and protect consumers rather than an inefficient taxi industry.

Mark Abdoo  
[1734 Corcoran St NW](#)  
[Washington, DC 20009](#)  


**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Councilman Evan's "No Minimum" Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:48:15 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

I urge you and others on the City Council to support an amendment being offered by Councilman Evans that would have set no minimum fare price for car services like Uber. For a world-class city like Washington D.C. it is critical that we have as many reliable and safe transportation options as possible.

Regards,

Kimberly Wayne  
District 6 Voter

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**From:** Kimberly Hallock <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2012 6:00 PM  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter

Dear Councilman Catania,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

I oppose adoption of any such amendment, and I'll consider your vote on it as my own personal "key vote" in the next round of elections.

It seems to me unfair and frankly undemocratic for elected representatives to take action against an innovative new company in order to buttress an incumbent industry that has proved itself hostile to innovation, and that has a record of poor service, price-gouging and general customer dissatisfaction.

I know that the Council is considering legislation to overhaul the city's taxicabs, elements of which are opposed by the industry. In general, I support that legislation, though I'm not thrilled about a 50-cent surcharge on top of large rate increases already adopted this year. But I see no reason why the council should discourage the efforts of Uber or other free-market innovators as it goes about trying to forcibly modernize the hidebound taxicab industry.

Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Councilman Evan's "No Minimum" Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:47:48 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I understand you are a co-sponsor of this amendment, but I still urge you and others on the City Council to support the proposal being offered by Councilman Evans that would have set no minimum fare price for car services like Uber. For a world-class city like Washington D.C. it is critical that we have as many reliable and safe transportation options as possible.

You continued support on this issue is commendable.

Regards,

Kimberly Wayne  
District 6 Voter

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**From:** Kimberly Hallock <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2012 6:00 PM  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter

Dear Councilman Wells,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

I oppose adoption of any such amendment, and I'll consider your vote on it as my own personal "key vote" in the next round of elections.

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Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kimberly Hallock](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Councilman Evan's "No Minimum" Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:46:20 PM

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Dear Councilman Brown,

I urge you and others on the City Council to support an amendment being offered by Councilman Evans that would have set no minimum fare price for car services like Uber. For a world-class city like Washington D.C. it is critical that we have as many reliable and safe transportation options as possible.

Regards,

Kimberly Wayne  
District 6 Voter

---

**From:** Kimberly Hallock <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2012 6:00 PM  
**Subject:** Vote against the "Uber" amendment - District 6 voter

Dear Councilman Brown,

I'm writing to you as a Capitol Hill resident and registered and active voter. I'm also a very happy customer of the [Uber](#) car service.

I understand you expect to take up an amendment in the next day or so that would prevent Uber from lowering its fares to compete with Washington's taxicab industry.

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I know that the Council is considering legislation to overhaul the city's taxicabs, elements of which are opposed by the industry. In general, I support that legislation, though I'm not thrilled about a 50-cent surcharge on top of large rate increases already adopted this year. But I see no reason why the council should discourage the efforts of Uber or other free-market innovators as it goes about trying to forcibly modernize the hidebound taxicab industry.

Thank you for your service and for your attention.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wayne  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Peter Mattocks](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support Councilmember Evan's Amendment calling for no minimum for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:59:46 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I write to you as a long-time resident of Washington, D.C., and a supporter of Uber.

It has come to my attention that Councilmember Evans has introduced an amendment calling for no minimum charge for Uber.

I urge you to support this amendment.

The taxi service in our city is below average, at best. A world-class city needs world-class transportation options, and Uber is just that - a world-class option.

Only competition can force our taxi service to improve, and I believe that forcing Uber to have a minimum will have a detrimental effect on the residents of and visitors to our city by not forcing taxis to compete with Uber.

Uber is a safe, reliable and affordable means of transportation, and unlike taxi dispatch services, when "called" a car always comes. In a sense, it fills a niche that taxi companies are unable or unwilling to fill - the need for a car in areas that are not well served by hailed taxis.

I therefore hope that you will support Council Member Evan's amendment.

Thank You,

Peter Mattocks

**From:** [Sharon Wagener](#)  
**Subject:** Support Councilmember Evans pro-Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:47:09 PM

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Councilmembers,

It is my understanding that Councilmember Jack Evans intends to offer an amendment that would allow Uber to operate low-cost service in DC, and eliminate the minimum charge requirement. Please support Councilmember Evans efforts to provide reliable transportation options for DC residents. The existing cab system is unreliable, and we need safe alternatives!

Thanks, Sharon

Sharon Wagener

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20003



**From:** [Jill Rowlison](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [\[REDACTED\] Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [\[REDACTED\]](#)  
**Subject:** Support DC Taxpayers  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:48 PM

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Dear Council Member,

In October 2011 my car was side-swiped by a licensed DC cab driver. The police arrived, made a report and my insurance company did a thorough investigation and determined the cab driver, driving a passenger holding a beer bottle, was 100% at fault for the accident. I was recently informed by my insurance company that they were having to go after the cab driver personally for the damages because it was determined **he did not have insurance**. Despite repeated calls to the DC Taxicab Commission, nobody has ever been able to explain why the cab driver was granted a permit without having insurance.

As a result of my personal incident I have no faith in the DC taxicab system, administration or the drivers. Uber has been a breath of fresh air and the only alternative to the DC taxicab system. The drivers are polite, the cars are clean, they take direct routes and most importantly, I have faith that the drivers of the vehicles are insured. Any action by the DC City Council to harm this business is a disservice to the tax-payers who are trying to support this city by taking transportation to various venues.

I look forward to seeing the actions of the City Council. I'm also more than happy to provide the police report number that contains the name and taxicab number of the individual found at fault for side-swiping my car.

Sincerely,  
Jill Rowlison

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jason Smith](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Evans" amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:46:01 PM

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Please do the right thing for DC residents and support Jack Evans' amendment banning any minimum fares for companies like Uber.

Thank you!

Jason Smith  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Jason Smith](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Evans" amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:45:14 PM


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David,

Please do the right thing for DC residents and support Jack Evans' amendment banning any minimum fares for companies like Uber.

Thank you!

Jason Smith

  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Katherine B. Sinks](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT EVANS/WELLS UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:07:38 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

As a concerned DC resident of Ward 3 I urge you to SUPPORT the Jack Evans/Tommy Wells Uber Amendment!!

In a market economy it is only fair to allow drivers to set their rates.

Please support this Amendment!

Respectfully,  
Katherine Sinks

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Katherine B. Sinks](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT EVANS/WELLS UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:06:59 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

As a concerned DC resident of Ward 3 I urge you to SUPPORT the Jack Evans/Tommy Wells Uber Amendment!!

In a market economy it is only fair to allow drivers to set their rates.

Please support this Amendment!

Respectfully,  
Katherine Sinks

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rohit Kinra](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Evans/Wells Uber Amendment - NO FARE MINIMUMS  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:44:32 PM

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As one of your constituents, I am writing to strongly encourage you to **support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment** which removes the minimum fare language.

As you are well aware many of your constituents are young professionals who are tech savvy, Uber is a great service and provides an alternative to those of us who do not want to patronize dirty old cabs driven by drivers with attitudes. Also, why would our city discourage competition, raise prices in a bad economy, and stifle technical innovation/investment in DC.

Respectfully, times are shifting and technology is the future. I hope you vote for the future and Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. I and many others in our neighborhood will be keep tabs on the vote for this issue, it will certainly inform our voting decisions in the next election.

Regards,  
Rohit Kinra



Unit 2  
Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Andrew Livick](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support Evans/Wells Uber Amendment - NO FARE MINIMUMS  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:54:07 PM

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Legislation that contains NO FARE MINIMUMS for transportation services should be passed. Progress and technology are the future and what drives our economy. Companies like Uber are what is needed right now. Not backhanded dealings with aging and dying companies and industries. Look toward the future and not your own simple self interests.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Uber** <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 10:58 AM  
Subject: Support Evans/Wells Uber Amendment - NO FARE MINIMUMS  
To: andrew livick <[REDACTED]>

We need your help supporting the Jack Evans/Tommy Wells Uber Amendment that was just introduced. It has **removed the minimum fare language** and is fully supportive of Uber and sedan drivers dictating the right prices for their service. Please call tweet all other council members telling them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment.

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED]
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)
- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
- **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
- **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
- **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)
- **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
- **David Catania**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
- **Vincent Orange**, at-large, [\(202\) \[REDACTED\]](#) [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive,

Team Uber



Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)



**From:** [Nancy Checklick](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support Evans/Wells Uber Amendment - NO FARE MINIMUMS  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:16:14 AM

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of the Jack Evans/Tommy Wells Uber Amendment. Uber represents innovation in small business America by creating new products and services. Fair competition in the marketplace should be fostered, not discouraged at the expense of others, particularly in this difficult economic environment where everyone needs to be able to play.

Sincerely,

Nancy Checklick

**From:** [Marsha Gentner](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Evans/Wells Uber Amendment - NO FARE MINIMUMS  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:15:51 AM

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Please support DC residents, instead of special interests.

Marsha G. Gentner

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20015

Living and working in DC (& paying taxes) for over three decades!

**From:** [Beth Payne](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Car Services such as Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:01:58 PM

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I understand that the DC City Council is considering an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for car service companies such as Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. I urge you to oppose this legislation. I am a resident of Ward 6 and regularly use taxis as an alternative to my car. I appreciate efforts to ensure that taxi drivers earn a living but believe that this should be done without limiting innovative and creative alternatives. I'm impressed with the services that Uber offers, particularly the reliability of their drivers and the ability to pay by credit card. They should be allowed to compete in the market. If taxi companies and drivers find that companies such as Uber are too much of a threat, then they should adapt to be competitive. For example, they could be more reliable, allow payment more often by credit card, provide cleaner cars. Eliminating their competition would only encourage them to provide minimal customer service and disregard innovation. So, tomorrow, please vote against this amendment. Thank you.

Beth Payne

[REDACTED]

N605

Washington DC 20024

**From:** [Hitchcock, Gretchen](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:19:06 PM

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Councilmember Catania-

It has come to my attention that the DC council is considering punitive government intervention against a terrific new company operating in DC called Uber. My husband and I live on 23<sup>rd</sup> St between L and M and we personally use Uber several times a month. However, note that we also still use taxis just as much as we always did. Uber is a different kind of service. It is a way for us to enjoy a more luxurious experience at a price point much lower than a limo service. As a frequent user of Uber and of taxis in DC, I can tell you that the competition is not with taxis, it is with limo companies. It would be really unfortunate if the DC council singles out this business because it does not want to face the other issues related to poor taxi service here in DC (old, run down cars, no credit card service, etc.) to make the taxi business more competitive in its own right and on par with the level of service provided by taxis in other premiere US and foreign cities. Uber is only going to survive if it makes a reasonable profit and I don't believe they will be able to do this charging the same or less than taxi rates. I think this is something we should leave up to market supply and demand and not interfere with government regulation. There will always be the need for an instant mode of transportation that only being able to hail a taxi on a street corner can provide. I think there is room for taxis and Uber in DC. Our residents and visitors should have a choice of transportation to meet different needs. I think DC is an amazing city and we should be striving for the best we can be as a city not forcing us into the lowest common denominator. We need to compete as a viable city on a world-wide basis and the Uber service helps us do that – and so would improving our taxi service, btw...

**I understand that my Councilmember, Jack Evans, has or is proposing an amendment that would specify no minimum pricing for Uber. I whole heartedly support this amendment and I urge you to support it as well. I hope I am not too late to influence your decision on this matter.**

**Best regards,**

**-Gretchen Hitchcock (Ward 2 Resident)**

Forwarding message from Uber management:

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a

great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

Gretchen Hitchcock  
Director of Strategic Operations  
Global Compliance Management Services

KPMG , LLP  
1801 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
office: [REDACTED]  
mobile: [REDACTED]

Gretchen Hitchcock  
Director of Strategic Operations  
Global Compliance Management Services

KPMG , LLP  
1801 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
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mobile: [REDACTED]

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Hitchcock, Gretchen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:18:42 PM

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Councilmember Brown-

It has come to my attention that the DC council is considering punitive government intervention against a terrific new company operating in DC called Uber. My husband and I live on 23<sup>rd</sup> St between L and M and we personally use Uber several times a month. However, note that we also still use taxis just as much as we always did. Uber is a different kind of service. It is a way for us to enjoy a more luxurious experience at a price point much lower than a limo service. As a frequent user of Uber and of taxis in DC, I can tell you that the competition is not with taxis, it is with limo companies. It would be really unfortunate if the DC council singles out this business because it does not want to face the other issues related to poor taxi service here in DC (old, run down cars, no credit card service, etc.) to make the taxi business more competitive in its own right and on par with the level of service provided by taxis in other premiere US and foreign cities. Uber is only going to survive if it makes a reasonable profit and I don't believe they will be able to do this charging the same or less than taxi rates. I think this is something we should leave up to market supply and demand and not interfere with government regulation. There will always be the need for an instant mode of transportation that only being able to hail a taxi on a street corner can provide. I think there is room for taxis and Uber in DC. Our residents and visitors should have a choice of transportation to meet different needs. I think DC is an amazing city and we should be striving for the best we can be as a city not forcing us into the lowest common denominator. We need to compete as a viable city on a world-wide basis and the Uber service helps us do that – and so would improving our taxi service, btw...

**I understand that my Councilmember, Jack Evans, has or is proposing an amendment that would specify no minimum pricing for Uber. I whole heartedly support this amendment and I urge you to support it as well. I hope I am not too late to influence your decision on this matter.**

**Best regards,**

**-Gretchen Hitchcock (Ward 2 Resident)**

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Gretchen Hitchcock  
Director of Strategic Operations  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Christopher Seneca](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Uber Car Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:06 PM

---

Hi,

Economic times are hard in DC. Please allow each service to compete for the most efficient and cost-effective car service that benefits the consumer. Please do not allow this amendment to pass, keeping the rates artificially high.

Thank you,  
Christopher Seneca

**From:** [Daniel Katz](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]; [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Uber DC - Vote Against the Fair Minimum  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:16:15 AM

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I'm a DC resident who intends to vote in the next election and I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed ammendment which would place a price floor on Uber Cab's service in DC.

I patronize both Uber Cab and DC's regular cab service as each of their services suit my needs at different times. I have lived in the district for three years and have found the performance of DC's cabs frequently deplorable - they don't even have credit card machines yet - and feel it is necessary to allow Uber to compete freely to ensure DC residents receive the best possible service. Furthermore, I object to the poposed amendment on principle. It is anti-capitalist and anti-competitive.

This is a significant issue for me because I take cabs to work at least once per week. I will check the vote on this measure and remember those for and against come election time. Any member who votes in favor of the charge minimum, will likely find me voting for his or her opponent come next election.

Sincerely,

Dan Katz

**From:** [Geoff Calver](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Jack Evans' Amendment Striking Down Minimum Fare Language  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:04:57 AM

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Hi Council Members -

As a constituent who just wrote asking for removal of the "Uber Amendment," I am now writing to urge you to support Jack Evans' proposed amendment that strikes down the minimum fare language in today's bill.

Every DC resident has a right to clean, safe, efficient taxi service at a fair price. If DC taxi's can't provide it, it is our legal right to be able to use an alternative. Please support Uber, and in turn, support your constituents rights to a fairly priced alternative. There is a reason Uber has been a success, and it's because the taxi system in Washington, DC is broken. Help encourage competition and innovation by supporting Uber and supporting Jack Evans' amendment today.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Geoff Calver

**From:** [Kelly Philson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Jack Evans Amendment to Have No Minimum for Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:05:24 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

As "An Outspoken Voice for Improving the District," I urge you to support Jack Evans amendment which would not set a minimum for Uber to operate in our city.

Actions to update the cab system in DC should be congratulated! Any work done to make the District's antiquated taxi system better, deserves kudos. I commend the Council's work as these improvements are made.

However, it makes absolutely no sense why the City Council would take steps to prevent small businesses from creating a competitive system in DC. This would only serve the residents of our communities better. Setting price floors or preventing other transportation options in DC continually allows taxi drivers to provide sub-par service.

Support Councilman Evans in his efforts to bring competition into the transportation marketplace in DC!

Kelly Philson  
Resident



Apt B  
WDC 20009

**From:** [Nagore Goitiandia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Jack Evans amendment!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:43:59 AM

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Please support Councilman Jack Evans' amendment that STRIKES DOWN the minimum fare language.

It seems completely insane to punish a company with innovative business practices and provides the type of service customers want, need and deserve. Do we not want to cultivate a society that progresses into the future?

I beg of the entire council to vote against keeping the district in the dark ages.

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 10:23 AM, Nagore Goitiandia

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

I use Uber all the time. It is a revolution in taxi/car service. You don't have to call and hope, you can actually see where the driver is and exactly how long they will take to get there prior to accepting the ride. You can also view the drivers ratings and reviews and accept, or not accept, a ride from them based on their performance. The drivers can also do the same for customers and if riders abuse the drivers, then they don't have to come and get them. This is why drivers will come to Ward 4, or anywhere else for that matter - because they know exactly who they are picking up. The cars are nice and clean and all the drivers are friendly and courteous and payment is hassle free and your tip is included. While you do pay a slight premium, it is worth it in my opinion. Anyone who thinks otherwise is welcome to call a cab and hope they come, or hail one off the street. At the same time, this more economical, all-hybrid fleet will expand their market and make Uber service even more affordable for all families in DC.

This is innovation and how the market place is supposed to work. While taxis in DC and other metro areas have held their markets and consumers hostage through regulation and medallions, rather than innovation and improved quality of service, Uber has found a way to reduce overhead, improve efficiency, and increase the quality of their product to compete and drive the market to a better place for consumers.

It seems completely insane to punish a company with innovative business practices and provides the type of service customers want, need and deserve. Do we not want to cultivate a society that progresses into the future?

I beg of the entire council to vote against keeping the district in the dark ages.

--

Nagore Goitiandia  
[REDACTED]

--

Nagore Goitiandia



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [shannon](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the amendment to allow uber to offer lower rates  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:10:17 PM

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Dear Councilmember Catania,  
I am very disturbed that the council would consider stifling competition resulting in higher transportation costs for DC residents. Uber is an excellent service, much more reliable than the taxi system, and if they can offer lower costs, please allow them to do so!

Thank you-  
Shannon Pryor

[REDACTED]

Ward 2



**From:** [Mike Ahern](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:26:52 PM

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Councilmember Wells --

I have lived in your Ward for roughly 7 years and have never contacted you about an issue until today. I urge you to support Councilmember Evans amendment to remove the minimum requirement for Uber. This city certainly has had its problems, but the product put out by its cab companies is among the worst, not just in the U.S., but in the world. If there was ever a time to help mitigate one of the worst aspects of our nation's capital and provide a credible alternative for the millions of annual visitors, this is it.

**Vote for the Evans amendment. Know that I and hundreds of users will be watching how you vote on this amendment.**

Mike Ahern

**From:** [Mike Ahern](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:19:06 PM

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At Large Members of the DC Council --

I urge you to support Councilmember Evans amendment to remove the minimum requirement for Uber. This city certainly has had its problems, but the product put out by its cab companies is among the worst, not just in the U.S., but in the world. If there was ever a time to help mitigate one of the worst aspects of our nation's capital and provide a credible alternative for the millions of annual visitors, this is it. Vote for the Evans amendment. Know that I and hundreds of users will be watching how you vote on this amendment.

**From:** [Taylor Griffin](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:09:31 PM

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Dear Councilmember Brown -

I am writing to urge your support for Councilmember Evans' amendment to strike the Uber fare hike language to the Taxi Modernization bill. Councilmember Evans, my representative in Ward 2, is supporting the kind of innovative and forward-thinking world-class city we all want Washington to be. I hope you'll join him in doing the same. Please find below my email to Councilmember Evans from yesterday evening.


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Dear Councilmember Evans -

As a resident of Ward 2, I'm writing to strongly urge your vote against the minimum fare provision in the so-called "Uber" amendment. The purpose of taxi regulation, paraphrasing the DC taxi commission web site, is to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient taxi service at a reasonable price. I fail to see how depriving Washingtonians of transportation alternatives that do all these things exceptionally well serves this purpose. Forcing consumers to pay rates for Uber services five times that of taxis certainly is no way to make transportation more affordable. DC should embrace technology and forward-thinking services like Uber that make transportation more convenient and efficient.

Uber provides an incredible service at a fair price. Imposing punitive rates to protect an inferior service is incredibly wrongheaded. DC should focus on raising the standards of the rest of the taxi fleet, not stifling innovation. I would appreciate your informing me of your intentions in tomorrow's vote. I will weigh them strongly when I cast mine this November.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of my view.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Griffin  
Foggy Bottom  
 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone, please forgive the inevitable typos and autocorrect madness.

**From:** [Michelle Grifka](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** SUPPORT the Evans -Wells Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:27:14 AM

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I SUPPORT the Jack Evans/Tommy Wells Uber Amendment that was just introduced. It has **removed the minimum fare language** and is fully supportive of Uber and sedan drivers dictating the right prices for their service. Uber provides an important service in my neighborhood. You'd be surprised at how challenging getting a taxi can be at 12th and Maryland NE.

Michelle Grifka  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [John Mataya](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans/Wells Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:35:01 AM

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I'm writing in hope that you will support the Evans/Wells Uber amendment which is fully supportive of Uber and sedan drivers dictating the right prices for their service.

Having reliable and affordable transportation options in a city is important for all of it's residents.

John Mataya  


**From:** [Juan Ulloa](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:15:51 AM

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I am writing as a DC resident to **call on the entire DC Council to Support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment**. Removing the minimum fare language is pro-business, pro-competition and allows service providers like Uber and the greater marketplace to set the base fare. I am an entrepreneur myself. The District needs to attract and cultivate business, not hinder it. Supporting the Evans/Wells measure is a step in that direction.

Thank you,

Juan Ulloa  
Ward 2

**From:** [Taylor Griffin](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans/Wells Über amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:11:29 PM

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Dear Councilmember Catania -

I am writing to urge your support for Councilmember Evans' amendment to strike the Über fare hike language to the Taxi Modernization bill. Councilmember Evans, my representative in Ward 2, is supporting the kind of innovative and forward-thinking world-class city we all want Washington to be. I hope you'll join him in doing the same. Please find below my email to Councilmember Evans from yesterday evening.


----

Dear Councilmember Evans -

As a resident of Ward 2, I'm writing to strongly urge your vote against the minimum fare provision in the so-called "Über" amendment. The purpose of taxi regulation, paraphrasing the DC taxi commission web site, is to ensure safe, reliable, and efficient taxi service at a reasonable price. I fail to see how depriving Washingtonians of transportation alternatives that do all these things exceptionally well serves this purpose. Forcing consumers to pay rates for Über services five times that of taxis certainly is no way to make transportation more affordable. DC should embrace technology and forward-thinking services like Über that make transportation more convenient and efficient.

Über provides an incredible service at a fair price. Imposing punitive rates to protect an inferior service is incredibly wrongheaded. DC should focus on raising the standards of the rest of the taxi fleet, not stifling innovation. I would appreciate your informing me of your intentions in tomorrow's vote. I will weigh them strongly when I cast mine this November.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of my view.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Griffin  
Foggy Bottom  
 (cell)

Sent from my iPhone, please forgive the inevitable typos and autocorrect madness.

**From:** [jumoke davis](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:04:35 PM

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Council members,

As a D.C. resident, please support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment without the minimum fare language. Uber has been a great benefit to D.C. As a major metropolitan city, it is a great service that cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and even Paris utilize, and I don't want to see D.C. lose that distinction. If D.C. cabs were clean, the drivers knew directions, and were accessible Uber wouldn't be a service needed. Residents should have a right to alternative services at a fair price. It's the definition of capitalism and if nothing else it may motivate the cabs to improve their service. I am not rich and don't have an agenda, I just believe in getting good service for a reasonable price and Uber does that. Uber will not make cabs obsolete and I will even use cabs when necessary but options are good for business and good for the people.

Thank You  
Jumoke



**From:** [Dawn Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:35:09 PM

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As an Uber user I ask you to not raise costs for the patrons and strike the paragraph 8C where you set minimums for sedans. There is a lack of cabs in DC and a large majority will stop to ask where you are going and not pick you up if they don't think its in their best financial interest. Many do not use their air conditioning during summer months to save on gas. Uber is very helpful and fills a gap for DC cabs. Instead of punishing us, please help the citizens. Please support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment.

Thank you,

Dawn M. Farrell

**From:** [Allison Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support the right for Uber to compete  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:37:12 PM

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Please oppose the legislative amendment aimed at setting an unfair minimum price floor for Uber car services in DC. DC citizens have the right to choose which method of transportation to use without the DC Council unfairly manipulating the market.

To even propose a minimum five times that of taxicabs encourages the DC taxi cab drivers and commissioners to maintain the poor service quality and unfair business practices they currently maintain.

To prevent DC citizens from accessing this safe, affordable, convenient mode of transportation would cause them a great disservice.

Please strike down this language and give DC residents the choice they deserve.

-- Allison Cunningham  
[REDACTED] Washington DC

**From:** [Brolin Walters](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support the Taxi Lobby and Lose a Donor  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:56 PM

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Mr. Medndelson,

My name is Brolin Walters, a D.C. resident. I will keep this email brief as to not waste your time.

As a resident that has donated to yours, and other council members, campaigns, I urge you to listen to what I am about to tell you or risk losing all future donations.

Uber has provided what DC cabs have failed to do, reliable taxi service. On numerous occasions I have received poor service, refusal of service, and terrible experiences in general from DC cabs. Uber provides a reliable service each and every time at a cost that is competitive to the taxis.

Being D.C. council members, you should be the bastion of capitalism considering you are in the capital of a nation that has helped spread capitalism's might throughout the globe. By refusing to allow a business to offer a superior product at a lower cost you are rejecting capitalism at its core.

Furthermore, you are essentially taxing your citizens by failing to allow them access to superior services at lower costs. I am assured you do not want to be labeled the politician that has failed to allow access to superior products at lower costs to the people that have elected you to office (or the donors who have supported you).

In summary, support a service that lowers costs AND provides a better service to you citizens. The ramifications of not allowing Uber to lower its prices will cost you at least one vote, which may be the one that costs you an election.

Always,

Brolin Walters

**From:** [Shaz192000](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** support uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:51:52 PM

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support evans/wells uber amendment

Sent from my Samsung Epic™ 4G Touch

**From:** [Shaz192000](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** support uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:49:13 PM

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support evan/wells uber amendment

Sent from my Samsung Epic™ 4G Touch

**From:** [Tate Rosenbusch](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:47:35 AM

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DC City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the DC Uber amendment. I am an eight year resident of SE Washington DC, and I generally take the DC metro or the Capital Bikeshare, take taxis often, and also am a customer of Uber. I find Uber to be more reliable and a more enjoyable experience than DC taxis who are often difficult to find in my neighborhoods. Taxis rarely come to SE, so it is difficult to find one from my house, and I have been forcibly rejected from taxis regularly because they would prefer to shuttle between busy neighborhoods at night and often refuse to drive to the Capitol Hill/SE neighborhood. I find it shocking that a government would try to prohibit businesses from offering services to consumers at competitive rates to protect an inefficient, overpriced monopoly. If one company develops technology to improve efficiency and profit by offering a similar - or in this case better service - at a competitive or low price, then consumers should be given the opportunity to patronize that company.

Instead of voting to fix prices and cause voters to pay more for transportation, I would think City Council would encourage the taxi cab industry to adopt similar technology and compete on better service and efficiency.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter and urge you to do what is best for the citizens of DC and NOT for the taxi-cab monopoly.

Tate Rosenbusch

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20003

**From:** [Elizabeth Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:22:41 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

As a member of the DC City Council, you often highlight the need for DC for "transportation innovation" and an expansion of transportation options for residents. After moving to NoMa, I made the decision that I no longer needed to own a car. I take advantage of the public transportation available to me daily. That said, there are times and places where public transportation isn't the best option and at those times, I rely on the city taxis. Having lived in this city on and off for more than 12 years, I can assert that DC taxis are in dire need of upgrading and expansion. After numerous incidents of taxis failing to show up as promised, inability to find a driver, drivers unfamiliar with the city and growing rates, I was introduced to Uber, a private transportation company that is now under fire for providing a ***much needed*** service to this city.

Recently I heard that the DC City Council plans to vote on an amendment tomorrow that will set transportation prices unnaturally high in order to protect a fledging taxi industry that seems to be adapting to modern times at a snails pace. I urge you not to allow the DC taxi industry to become a monopoly in lieu of providing alternative transportation options for your residents. You state that you want your residents to have options and Uber is a such an option and shouldn't be punished for filling a much needed void.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lawrence  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Chris Stergalas](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:38:39 PM

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Hello Councilman,

I just wanted to write you a quick note and ask that you please vote against the Uber amendment tomorrow. The DC Taxi Commission for too long has gotten its way with whatever regulations they see fit. I have lived in DC for over two years and rarely feel safe taking a cab, for a multitude of reasons.

Competition to this industry is a good thing and should be encouraged, it will only spark better overall service for DC residents and visitors.

By limiting a company like Uber from expanding into a lower-cost option, while still maintaining their consistent quality and safety, we are allowing our city to slip backward even more.

Please do the right thing and vote in support of a quality DC transit system, and not in the favor of a single industry organization.

Thank you,

Chris Stergalas

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20001

--

Chris Stergalas

[REDACTED]

@cstergalas



**From:** [Chris Stergalas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:36:50 PM

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Hello Councilman,

First, I'd like to say that I am excited that you will soon be representing my neighborhood of Shaw. Your leadership has been top quality, and I am sure more good will come of it.

I am writing to ask that you please vote against the Uber amendment tomorrow. The DC Taxi Commission for too long has gotten its way with whatever regulations they see fit. I have lived in DC for over two years and rarely feel safe taking a cab, for a multitude of reasons.

Competition to this industry is a good thing and should be encouraged, it will only spark better overall service for DC residents and visitors.

By limiting a company like Uber from expanding into a lower-cost option, while still maintaining their consistent quality and safety, we are allowing our city to slip backward even more.

Please do the right thing and vote in support of a quality DC transit system, and not in the favor of a single industry organization.

Thank you,

Chris Stergalas

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001

--

Chris Stergalas

[REDACTED]  
@cstergalas

**From:** [Fogel, Glenn \(PCLN-NW\)](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:35 PM

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I have used Uber in Washington during a visit and thought the service wonderful. I understand the City Council wants to prevent Uber from offering a less expensive service. Why would you want to prevent the people from getting a less expensive service? I recognize that people might choose Uber rather than a regular taxi if the service was less expensive. And why is this bad? Is not price competition a good thing? Since when did we shift to command/soviet style of government?

Please do the right thing and not prevent by law services that should rise or fall on their own merits.

Glenn D. Fogel

**From:** [Fogel, Glenn \(PCLN-NW\)](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:56 PM

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I have used Uber in Washington during a visit and thought the service wonderful. I understand the City Council wants to prevent Uber from offering a less expensive service. Why would you want to prevent the people from getting a less expensive service? I recognize that people might choose Uber rather than a regular taxi if the service was less expensive. And why is this bad? Is not price competition a good thing? Since when did we shift to command/soviet style of government?

Please do the right thing and not prevent by law services that should rise or fall on their own merits.

Glenn D. Fogel

**From:** [Alexander Fiske](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:16:37 PM

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I am writing to voice my support for the Uber Car service. As a native Washingtonian and lifelong Ward 3 resident I have always found the DC Taxi system unreliable, unsafe, unwilling to change and corrupt. Over the years while taxi systems in other jurisdictions surrounding DC have welcomed change, the Taxi's in DC have done nothing but fight any sort of change. From the zone fare system, to rates, and now adding credit cards. We are a major city and frankly our cab system is an embarrassment.

There are countless stories of patrons, including myself, who have felt unsafe in these cabs because of shoddy, dangerous cars and rude, dangerous drivers. Drivers refuse to pick up patrons because their destination and there have been countless times when myself or friends have waiting long times in different parts of the city wating on cabs because they won't pick patrons up or there is not enough cabs in the area. And of course there is the fight you get when you need to go outside the city. While these instances do not represent all DC Taxi drivers, I have witnessed, heard and read enough stories that it is a problem.

When Uber was added to the city I welcomed their addition. They provide a reliable service that no DC Taxi service can come close to providing. Cars are clean and reliable. Drivers are courteous and never on their phones. They pay attention to the road and even ask what route they would like to take, not fight with them like DC Cabbies. But one of most welcoming aspects of their service is techonology. By using their "Ap" I can hail one of the their cabs from my phone and the drivers will pick me up no matter what part of the city I am in, at any time. And the most welcoming part of that is I don't have to stand out on the street waiting in the rail, cold, heat, tring to get a cab. I order it and I know when the cab is going to show up and they let me know when they are arriving.

What you and your colleagues are proposing for Uber is wrong. In a free market economy you are trying to limit a business and reliable service that many residents find safe and useful. I would think that the presence of Uber with their service and techology would be a welcome addition that might set a standard that the rest of the industry might look to adopting.

So far you have allowed the DC Taxi's in this city dictate how they want to operate and not forcing them to change. You were voted into office to represent the interests of the residents of DC and by proposing these fare rules for one business and not forcing the DC Taxi system to change I question who's interest you have.

I use Uber because I cannot rely on DC Taxis for anything but frustration and anger. Please do not pass this legislation to hurt Uber. Work with Uber on changing the industry instead!

Alexander Fiske  
Cleveland Park

**From:** [Abigail Gardner](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:01 PM

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Hi Councilman Wells,  
I live your Ward and I wanted to write to you today to ask you to support Uber in DC. Living in an area that doesn't usually offer reliable cab service has been a challenge, but since Uber came to DC it has been a tremendous addition to my multi-modal lifestyle. I hope you will support Uber and urge your other council members to do so as well.

Best,  
Abigail Gardner  
Proud DC resident

**From:** [Dave Heaton](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber, Not Traditional Taxis  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:19:20 PM

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To the members of the DC City Council,

I strongly encourage you NOT to support any bill that would make it more expensive or cumbersome for Uber to operate in the District of Columbia. Rather, I encourage the DC City Council to support measures that encourage Uber and other companies like it to provide a diverse range of transportation options for District residents.

I am a Ward 6 resident and homeowner in Southeast. I don't own a vehicle, but have convenient Metro access. Sometimes, however, I just need to take a taxi from my house. This is usually when I need to go somewhere in the early-morning hours before Metro is running--this problem is particularly acute on the weekends. I can almost never call and actually get a traditional cab to come to my house in Southeast, and taxis don't roam at 5am on Sunday mornings in my neighborhood. Uber is the only answer I have.

I think it's wonderful that Uber is introducing competition to the DC transportation market. Uber is almost always more expensive than traditional taxis -- which is why Uber is no threat to them -- but they provide a unique service and many DC residents are willing to pay a premium for them.

Please do not unfairly discriminate against me and other residents of the District that live in Southeast and other parts of the city that are not fully serviced by the traditional taxis. Don't sell out your constituents to the taxi union. Support Uber and a diversity of transportation options.

Sincerely,

David Heaton  
Concerned Citizen, Ward 6

**From:** [Tom Bridge](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber, Stop the Minimum Fare Amendment.  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:41 PM

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Councilmembers, Mr. Chair,

I strongly support Uber's lower cost options here in the District of Columbia, and have used their service when so many cab companies have failed me completely. If you've talked with anyone who's tried to get an early morning cab or a late night cab in Brookland, you know that they never make it. I can't blame them, they've decided it's not economical. Uber has served our community when the taxicabs won't, and they don't deserve to be undercut by this.

Please consider voting AGAINST the minimum fare amendment, or at least explain why the language has to be the way it is.

Thank you,

Tom Bridge

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20018

--

Tom Bridge, Editor  
We Love DC

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Pasko, Michael R.](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support Uber, Strike down the minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:06 PM

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As a resident of DC, I am urging you to support the tech/transportation company "Uber". I understand that an amendment will be voted on tomorrow that would prevent Uber from offering lower prices. DC residents deserve transportation options like Uber, not price fixing. Please strike down the minimum fare language. Thank you.

-Mike Pasko



**From:** [Sam Dealey](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:17 PM

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Dear Mr. Catania:

Dear Mr. Catania:

As one of the lone voices of reason on the DC council:

Please accept my brief note in vociferous opposition to tomorrow's vote that would limit Uber's ability to provide an all-hybrid car service. Not only is this a blow to the environment, but a lso to the free market and consumers. How refreshing that, in Uber, these three important causes work together rather than in opposition!

Additionally, any efforts to effectively impose price controls on Uber's service should also be opposed.

DC taxicabs offer too little quality at too much cost. If they are losing customers, then they should do what the rest of the competitive economy does: Adapt and offer better service at better prices.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Sam Dealey

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20008

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+

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Sam Dealey](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:27 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown:

Please accept my brief note in vociferous opposition to tomorrow's vote that would limit Uber's ability to provide an all-hybrid car service. Not only is this a blow to the environment, but a lso to the free market and consumers. How refreshing that, in Uber, these three important causes work together rather than in opposition!

Additionally, any efforts to effectively impose price controls on Uber's service should also be opposed.

DC taxicabs offer too little quality at too much cost. If they are losing customers, then they should do what the rest of the competitive economy does: Adapt and offer better service at better prices.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Sam Dealey  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20008

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+

[REDACTED]

**From:** [JW Parker](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** take out the anti uber legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:26:48 PM

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Whats wrong with inovation and free enterprise!!

**From:** [Dee Daniel](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:59:57 PM

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Mr Wells,

I have lived around D.C. for five years. I also travel for work half of each month. It never ceases to amaze me how awful the cab service is in D.C. It is easily the worst in our nation. The cabs are usually dirty, the drivers are rude and "clueless" (they never know how to get anywhere and always ask for directions), unreliable, refuse to take credit cards and the zone system allows for over-charging as they meander through different zones. Cabs are often the first impression of a city and its government. Is this how you want people to view DC?

Red Top Cab and Uber car services know how to do it right. The DC cabs can learn a thing, or five, from them. In contrast, I actively promote these two companies to friends, relatives and visitors. I want them to have a clean, safe, reliable and pleasant experience.

I understand you are deciding on some legislature, which is designed to block Uber from offering an affordable hybrid option. This is obviously a ploy to give DC cabs a monopoly, which will allow them to continue to offer sub-par service to DC residents and visitors to our beautiful city.

I urge you to vote against any such legislation ... And press the DC cabs to evolve with the times with their pricing and payment options.

Deedre Daniel

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dee Daniel](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:42 PM

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Mr Brown,

I have lived around D.C. for five years. I also travel for work half of each month. It never ceases to amaze me how awful the cab service is in D.C. It is easily the worst in our nation. The cabs are usually dirty, the drivers are rude and "clueless" (they never know how to get anywhere and always ask for directions), unreliable, refuse to take credit cards and the zone system allows for over-charging as they meander through different zones. Cabs are often the first impression of a city and its government. Is this how you want people to view DC?

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I urge you to vote against any such legislation ... And press the DC cabs to evolve with the times with their pricing and payment options.

Deedre Daniel

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Philip Braden](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi / "uber amendment" - please vote NO  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:28:45 PM

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Hello Ms. Bowser,

My family and I live in Ward 4, on Chestnut St in Hawthorne (and right across the street from Joe Bishop who I think has been a big supporter of yours). DC needs the Uber car service, and the council should be working with them rather than against them with punitive legislation.

The service from DC cabs has been unreliable for as long as I've known it, and it's especially unreliable to and from where I live. Calling for a cab on a Saturday night might result in a 15 minute wait, or an hour wait, or the taxi sometimes never comes. If my wife or I are downtown and want a cab to take us home, we are better off getting in the car first before telling the driver where we'd like to go, as they often otherwise refuse the trip. Uber, on the other hand, gladly accepts my business, and gives me a reliable way to know when my car will arrive.

Uber makes the District a better place to live. It seems ridiculous to me that my elected officials would try to stop or hinder this much-needed and beneficial service.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Philip Braden

 NW 20015

**From:** [Eddiebosox](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:54:56 PM

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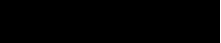
Tommy,

My wife and I live at 426 10h st NE and are huge supporters of you. I wanted to reach out and register my opposition to the proposed amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for the car service Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service. I've lived in DC for a while now and I am always outraged at the ridiculous cost of taxis in this town, and the lack of choice for other services. We've used Uber and found it to be a great alternative that we can only hope will add some much needed competition to the taxi drivers in this town. Frankly, voting to keep a sedan service from LOWERING its rates is anti markets and just rigging the system in favor of the taxi industry which already has too much influence in this town.

I hope you will vote to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thanks!

Ed Hill



**From:** [Andrew Pratt](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:58 PM

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Dear Councilman Brown-

I am one of your constituents. I am writing to voice my opposition to the taxi amendment being considered by the city council that would discriminate against low cost but HIGH QUALITY outfits like Uber. That the DC taxi fleet is a disgrace is beyond dispute. Further, DC taxis charge much more than NYC and Chicago for service that is far below most cabs in those cities. We pay a lot to live in DC. We should not be prevented from choosing low cost, high quality taxi services for the sole benefit of taxi owners/drivers that steadfastly refuse to offer modern, efficient services at a fair price. Please vote with the people, not with the taxi lobby. Thank you.

-Andrew Pratt





**From:** [Andrew Pratt](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:00 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania-

I am one of your constituents. I am writing to voice my opposition to the taxi amendment being considered by the city council that would discriminate against low cost but HIGH QUALITY outfits like Uber. That the DC taxi fleet is a disgrace is beyond dispute. Further, DC taxis charge much more than NYC and Chicago for service that is far below most cabs in those cities. We pay a lot to live in DC. We should not be prevented from choosing low cost, high quality taxi services for the sole benefit of taxi owners/drivers that steadfastly refuse to offer modern, efficient services at a fair price. Please vote with the people, not with the taxi lobby. Thank you.

-Andrew Pratt



**From:** [Bill Trimble](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Councilman Catania,

I was distressed to hear that an amendment was being introduced to arbitrarily set a minimum rate so as to make the terrific Uber service non-competitive. We use their service often, and it has been terrific for DC businesses like ours, as well as a great bonus for our visitors who like to come and use the cities restaurants and amenities without the hassle of the cab fleet. While only a small competitor, Uber provides a terrific service. This is just like the days of the Zones, a few holding many hostage. I urge you to defeat it. Thanks for your service to DC!

Best,

Bill

William C. Trimble, III  
Chief Executive Officer  
2101 L Street, NW Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20037

Main  
Direct



**From:** [Andrew Pratt](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:22 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells-

I am one of your constituents on Capitol Hill. I am writing to voice my opposition to the taxi amendment being considered by the city council that would discriminate against low cost but HIGH QUALITY outfits like Uber. That the DC taxi fleet is a disgrace is beyond dispute. Further, DC taxis charge much more than NYC and Chicago for service that is far below most cabs in those cities. We pay a lot to live in DC. We should not be prevented from choosing low cost, high quality taxi services for the sole benefit of taxi owners/drivers that steadfastly refuse to offer modern, efficient services at a fair price. Please vote with the people, not with the taxi lobby. Thank you.

-Andrew Pratt



**From:** [Chris Thomson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Taxi Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:21:20 PM

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Councilmember Brown:

I strongly urge you to support Councilmember Jack Evan's amendment below.

Thank you.

Chris Thomson

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** 'Chris Thomson' <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Taxi Amendment Vote

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

---

**From:** Chris Thomson [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:31 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Taxi Amendment Vote

As a DC resident, I urge you to vote against the bill tomorrow to set a minimum price floor for sedan services. I see no reason why transportation options other than cab services should be stifled, and find this to be a horrible attempt to force consumers to pay more while driving out quality competition. The DC taxicabs as a whole (not individual drivers of whom there are many exceptions) are the worst in the nation, and we should not be further supporting this system by disallowing alternatives.

Chris Thomson

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Chris Thomson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Taxi Amendment Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:17:36 PM

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David-

I urge you to support Councilmember Jack Evans' amendment below.

Thank you!

Chris Thomson

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** 'Chris Thomson' <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Taxi Amendment Vote

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

---

**From:** Chris Thomson [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:31 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Taxi Amendment Vote

As a DC resident, I urge you to vote against the bill tomorrow to set a minimum price floor for sedan services. I see no reason why transportation options other than cab services should be stifled, and find this to be a horrible attempt to force consumers to pay more while driving out quality competition. The DC taxicabs as a whole (not individual drivers of whom there are many exceptions) are the worst in the nation, and we should not be further supporting this system by disallowing alternatives.

Chris Thomson

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Brett Shogren](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi amendments  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:04 PM

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Mr. Catania -

I am a DC resident and very concerned about reports that the DC council is intending to take action tomorrow to require sedan services that compete with local cabs to charge higher prices. I, and many of my friends in the district, use services like Uber as an alternative to the unreliable and often terrible service provided by the local cab companies. I would hope that my local government would not be depriving me of my choice of company and force me to pay more just because the current cab service is concerned it will hurt their bottom line. If they provided better service, i would use them. If they answered their phones, I would use them. If they showed up when scheduled, i would use them. They do not. I am writing to you because you always seem to be a reasonable voice for the district, even in light of political pressures, and I hope you will oppose this effort.

Thank you for your service to the district,

Brett Shogren

**From:** [Miguel Ayala](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:53:31 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania:

I am writing to respectfully ask you to vote against the absurd and anti-competitive minimum fare amendment to the taxicab modernization bill.

The taxi lobby consistently fights to resist any regulatory improvements, maintain their monopolies, and seeks additional fees and higher fares, while maintaining a system not fit a major international city much less our nation's Capitol.

The cost of cab fare continues to rise while the quality of vehicles, driving experience and customer service skills steeply decline. And on top of that, I still can't use my credit card on 90% of the cabs. (When my employer is paying for my cab ride to the airport, I prefer to call an Arlington cab company, which I can summon with an app on my smartphone, than try to hail a DC cab.)

Cab drivers continue to violate basic rules, like asking me for my destination before they unlock their door, changing rates and charging extra fees not applicable to my ride, or talking on the phone. I shouldn't have to ask for you to turn on the AC on a hot summer day.

Let's level playing field and allow Uber the opportunity to provide a unique service that will surely make DC cabs want to do better. If they are scared of competition, good. Because they have failed to rise to the occasion in what should be a world-class system in our nation's Capitol.

Miguel A. Ayala  
REGISTERED VOTER AT:  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Miguel Ayala](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:52:54 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells:

I am writing to respectfully ask you to vote against the absurd and anti-competitive minimum fare amendment to the taxicab modernization bill.

The taxi lobby consistently fights to resist any regulatory improvements, maintain their monopolies, and seeks additional fees and higher fares, while maintaining a system not fit a major international city much less our nation's Capitol.

The cost of cab fare continues to rise while the quality of vehicles, driving experience and customer service skills steeply decline. And on top of that, I still can't use my credit card on 90% of the cabs. (When my employer is paying for my cab ride to the airport, I prefer to call an Arlington cab company, which I can summon with an app on my smartphone, than try to hail a DC cab.)

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Miguel A. Ayala  
REGISTERED VOTER AT:  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Miguel Ayala](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:50:51 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown:

I am writing to respectfully ask you to vote against the absurd and anti-competitive minimum fare amendment to the taxicab modernization bill.

The taxi lobby consistently fights to resist any regulatory improvements, maintain their monopolies, and seeks additional fees and higher fares, while maintaining a system not fit a major international city much less our nation's Capitol.

The cost of cab fare continues to rise while the quality of vehicles, driving experience and customer service skills steeply decline. And on top of that, I still can't use my credit card on 90% of the cabs. (When my employer is paying for my cab ride to the airport, I prefer to call an Arlington cab company, which I can summon with an app on my smartphone, than try to hail a DC cab.)

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Miguel A. Ayala  
REGISTERED VOTER AT:  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 200 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joshua Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Bill - Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:53:02 AM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

**Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

The minimum fare language is anti-free market and anti-consumer. As in all aspects of city life, voters want quality services. Taxi drivers and the taxi lobby are not delivering. In fact, they're getting worse.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy the benefits of a similar service here in DC. Competition is good, and allowing Uber to operate freely in DC can only encourage our Taxi cab system to improve, but not with the current minimum fare language.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for the services they provide.

Sincerely,

Joshua Meyer



Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Travis Price](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi bill concern  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Please , Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).  
I use them and see no reason why they should be penalized with such limitations.

Let free enterprise succeed in DC , Thank you, Travis

Ward 3 Resident and Georgetown small business.

**Travis L Price III, FAIA**

Travis Price Architects  
1028 33rd St, NW Suite 320  
Washington, DC 20007



[www.TravisPriceArchitects.com](http://www.TravisPriceArchitects.com)  
[www.SpiritofPlace-Design.com](http://www.SpiritofPlace-Design.com)  
[www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com](http://www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com)

**From:** [Jeff Dufour](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi bill/Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:49 PM

---

Dear Members of the Council,

I urge you to defeat the so-called Uber amendment to the taxi bill. This is a useful, convenient service that I use frequently. I'm happy to pay a bit extra for it, but they shouldn't be forced to charge beyond market rates simply because they provide a level of service that the legacy taxis are unable or unwilling to provide. This is still a free market--or at least it should be.

**From:** [Travis Price](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi concern  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Please , Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).  
I use them and see no reason why they should be penalized with such limitations.

Let free enterprise succeed in DC , Thank you, Travis

Ward 3 Resident and Georgetown Ward 2 small business.

**Travis L Price III, FAIA**

Travis Price Architects  
1028 33rd St, NW Suite 320  
Washington, DC 20007



[www.TravisPriceArchitects.com](http://www.TravisPriceArchitects.com)  
[www.SpiritofPlace-Design.com](http://www.SpiritofPlace-Design.com)  
[www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com](http://www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com)

**From:** [Travis Price](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi concerns  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Please , Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).  
I use them and see no reason why they should be penalized with such limitations.

Let free enterprise succeed in DC , Thank you, Travis

Ward 3 Resident and Georgetown Ward 2 small business.

**Travis L Price III, FAIA**

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[www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com](http://www.ArchaeologyofTomorrow.com)

**From:** [Kate Aishton](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:34:52 AM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I want to voice my opposition to the minimum taxi fare amendment coming up for vote today. I've been a resident of Ward 5 for nearly six years, and until Uber came to DC, I ended up walking to and from home during late night and early morning more than I wanted because cabs are extremely hard to find in our neighborhood. This isn't a matter of convenience; it's a matter of safety. Everytime a woman has to walk by herself because a cab isn't around (or a passing one rejects her because she's going to the "wrong neighborhood"), she's at risk for sexual assault and other violent crime. Please vote against this amendment so DC women will be able to get between home and work safely.

Thank you,  
Kate Aishton  
DC voter

**From:** [Kate Aishton](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Fare Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:33:16 AM

---

Dear Councilman Brown,

I want to voice my opposition to the minimum taxi fare amendment coming up for vote today. I've been a resident of Ward 5 for nearly six years, and until Uber came to DC, I ended up walking to and from home during late night and early morning more than I wanted because cabs are extremely hard to find in our neighborhood. This isn't a matter of convenience; it's a matter of safety. Everytime a woman has to walk by herself because a cab isn't around (or a passing one rejects her because she's going to the "wrong neighborhood"), she's at risk for sexual assault and other violent crime. Please vote against this amendment so DC women will be able to get between home and work safely.

Thank you,  
Kate Aishton  
DC voter



**From:** [Torey Potter](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Improvement Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:57:05 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells,

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC. As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

Sincerely,

Torey Potter

Ward 6

**From:** [Parker Hamilton Poling](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi industry  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:48:10 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells -

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to vote NO on the minimum fare amendment before the DC Council tomorrow.

Simply put, this amendment is a government intervention that only serves to further entrench the current taxi system. As a resident of Capitol Hill, I cannot walk outside of my house and hail a cab. I have to walk at least .5 mile to find a cab, which completely defeats the purpose of a taxi. Attempting to call a taxi is unreliable at best.

Uber, a startup company, has attempted to enter the marketplace to provide a needed service for consumers like myself. DC cabs see this as a threat to their business model and are leveraging their political influence to protect their profit margin. This is antithetical to the free market. I urge you to vote no on the minimum fare amendment.

Sincerely,

Parker Hamilton Poling



**From:** [Richard Herrell](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi legislation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:18:34 AM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

Please, please vote against the terrible legislation drawn up solely to punish Uber and keep it out of the taxi market. Uber has offered an excellent alternative to DC's rude, unpredictable, late drivers dispatched by DC's rude unpredictable cab companies. The DC cab industry needs MORE competition and legislating it out of existence is bad for DC residents.

Richard Herrell  
Ward 6

From: [Adam Sharp](#)  
To: [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
Subject: Taxi Legislation  
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 8:46:30 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells:

As an eight-year resident of the sixth ward, I have always been grateful for your responsiveness to my occasional e-mails.

**I write you now in support of B19-0630 — legislation you introduced and that the council passed on a first reading last month. The District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2011 sets the city on a better path than the status quo, and I am encouraged by the bill's overall passage. However, I have concerns regarding an amendment that I understand will be voted on tomorrow. This so-called "Uber Amendment" will further create arbitrary silos between classes of transportation services and needlessly stifle innovation in the market.**

Let me say up front: I am routine user of Uber, and also commonly use Red Top of Arlington (a participant in the RideCharge network of apps and services) for travel to our local airports and other Virginia destinations.

On the frequent occasion that I still hop into a traditional DC meter-cab, I am woefully reminded why I so often opt for these more-expensive alternatives. Four of the last five metered cabs I have used lacked air conditioning, and two were unable to make the desired change after I sought less than \$10 in return. None, of course, accepted credit cards; and all showed definite signs of years of wear and tear. I live on Massachusetts Avenue, where hailing a cab is uniquely difficult as most have either just picked up passengers at Union Station or already have fares headed back that way. The services that allow ordering by phone or mobile app are inconsistent and rarely meet their promised timetables.

I am pleased that your legislation takes steps to address many of these frustrations, by requiring the implementation of more modern payment and GPS tracking options, increasing inspections of vehicles, and encouraging upgrades to the taxi fleet. I also am encouraged that the proposed amendment will set the council on a path to more formally recognizing services like Uber and RideCharge in the spectrum of options available to consumers.

**The current "shoot first, ask questions later" approach implemented by Commissioner Linton, whereby the Commission takes enforcement actions against drivers in the absence of clear regulatory guidance, is deeply troubling and I am pleased the Council is looking to provide clarity in this regard.**

That said, the creation of arbitrary barriers between service types, prohibiting services like Uber from entering the lower-end (i.e. sub-towncar) market by fixing a minimum rate of five times the minimum taxi rate, seems unnecessarily onerous. It would appear the proposed requirement that these services maintain a higher time-and-distance rate would satisfy the spirit of this section on its own, without the more dramatic protectionism proposed in multiplying the minimum fare.

I recognize that services may opt-out of this regulation by taking a series of steps including providing an estimated fare at time of booking, which requires a prior determination of destination — a requirement that does not have to be met until the passenger is in the vehicle under either the taxicab or limo standard. The other opt-out elements — including providing rate information at booking; printing a detailed receipt after the ride; and complying with other licensing rules — are all significantly more sound policy.

**I would urge the Council to either: (a) strike or significantly reduce the five-times rate minimum, or (b) modify the opt-out provisions to empower the consumer to easily calculate their estimated fare based on the provider's formula, but not single-out this one class of provider by requiring they demand a destination and provide an estimate at time of booking.** This latter option would encourage services like Uber to develop "enter points A and B into this form, and we'll calculate a rough estimate" functionality common to many similar services (and the WMATA) already, while still meeting the underlying goals of the amendment.

Making it easier for more innovative providers to enter and compete at all levels of the market will help incentivize legacy companies to invest more readily in new technologies, better services and upgraded fleets. The additional competitive pressure will also motivate these providers to "broaden the playing field" and expand coverage of underserved communities in our city.

Thank you for your consideration of my views and for your continued service to the sixth ward.

Sincerely,

Adam Sharp

[REDACTED]

Apt. 623

Washington, DC 20001

[@AdamS](#) | [fb/adamsharp](#) | [REDACTED]

**From:** [Julius Svoboda](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:35:38 PM

---

Dear Council Member Catania,

I am writing you to let you know that I oppose the pending DC Council legislation on taxi regulations. Specifically the provisions that would require companies like Uber to charge 5 times the minimum taxi fare to use their service. I think provisions like this prevent companies like Uber from investing in more efficient taxis in Washington DC, while protecting taxi companies that are unresponsive to consumer demands for cleaner, more fuel efficient, and reliable taxi fleet. I hope you will take these points into consideration.

Kind regards,

Julius Svoboda

Washington, DC

**From:** [Mac Chatham](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: taxi legislation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:28:53 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you not to support the amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would prevent Uber from being able to offer a competitive lower cost and environmentally friendly car service. I know the DC taxi lobby has traditionally wielded great influence over the Council, but I hope you will reject this unfair legislation that essentially will result in artificially high prices for alternative transport in DC.

The taxi industry in DC has proven to be corrupt and inefficient over the years. I routinely struggle to even get someone to answer a phone when trying to request cab service, and then can never be given an exact time for pick-up. It's always "the driver will call you when they are on their way". Uber on the other hand provides an excellent service that lets customers know exact car location and arrival time. This is essential for people needing taxis at a guaranteed time. If the council votes to restrict competition, there will be no incentive for the taxi industry to improve and we in DC will remain stuck with service unbefitting of our nation's capitol.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mac Chatham



DC 20001

**From:** [Chrisanthy Loizos](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:59 PM

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I am requesting that tomorrow you vote against the manipulative and monopolistic taxi industry's tactics by allowing true competition in the city so that Uber can offer lower cost services. DC's cabs are too expensive compared to other major cities and absolutely unreliable. I cannot obtain a cab in my Shaw/LeDroit/Bloomingdale for travel to the airports when I need them early in the morning. Scheduled pick-ups are non-existent and I am tired of having cabbies, illegally, ask me where I am going before they let me in the car. Now, I jump in before I speak. It is ludicrous. If you can't amend their behaviour, you must allow other services to fill the void.

Thank you-

Chrisanthy Loizos





**From:** [Hampe, Carl](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Legislation -- Strike the Anti-Uber Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:26 PM

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Dear Councilwoman Cheh and Councilman Catania:

I am a Ward 3 resident (3821 Jenifer St, NW). I urge you to vote against anti-competitive amendments to the DC Taxi Modernization Bill that would prevent the Uber service from offering rates that it deems economically viable. The DC Council should be looking for ways to expand transportation options for DC residents, not for ways to limit them. The anti-Uber language is anti-consumer.

Thank you.  
Carl Hampe

Carl W. Hampe  
Baker & McKenzie LLP  
815 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20006-4078  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Bill Trimble](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi minimum fare amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:00:11 PM

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Dear Mr. Graham,

I am a resident of the District, a business owner, and very much a fan of the Uber service that we use to transport guests and clients to meetings and dinners in DC, including your terrific Ward. Please, let's not throw a roadblock in the way of a great business that provides a service that the DC cab fleet cannot. We are looking at a small, non-competitive player, and who can forget the years of agony we had with the zone system. Sadly, I am routinely underwhelmed by our cab services, and we do not need to dive to the lowest possible denominator. Thanks for your service,

Bill Trimble III  


**From:** [Sara Twaddell](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Minimum Fare Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:27 PM

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I wanted to express my concern and disagreement with the motion to include a minimum taxi fare in the Uber amendment. We should not limit competitively priced services, especially when Uber provides a superior service to regular taxi cabs. Users should be able to ride in whichever cabs they choose at the cost that Uber wishes to charge. Uber should be able to provide the lowest cost services to compete with traditional cabs without the hinderance of city government.

Please strike down the minimum taxi fare in the Uber amendment!

-Sara Twaddell

**From:** [Kevin Fitzpatrick](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:59:35 AM

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Mr Brown: I applaud the efforts to modernize the taxi services in DC. The current battered, non-standard fleet is an embarrassment to a great city. Part of this modernization is to allow riders to connect via technology with service providers. Uber is an asset to DC not a detriment. With Uber in the market it will force all service providers to improve.

Thank you for your consideration  
Kevin Fitzpatrick

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Kevin Fitzpatrick | SVP Business Development  
202-340-8686 | [kfitzpatrick@acc.org](mailto:kfitzpatrick@acc.org) | [www.acc.org](http://www.acc.org)



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY

**From:** [John Wannen](#)  
**To:** [John Wannen](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:06 PM

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As a long-time DC resident and enthusiastic customer of the Uber car service I would ask to vote against an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. I believe this company offers significant service to residents and visitors, particularly those visitors from Manhattan who are loyal Uber customers.

---

John Wannen

Office  
Cell  
EFax

**From:** [Susie Coggin](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization & UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:34 PM

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Dear Councilman Brown:

I write to you today to urge you to NOT vote to amend a taxi modernization bill including a provision making it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The DC Taxi industry has a monopoly on taxi service in Washington, DC that effectively suppresses competition and thereby crushing any free market attempt. Furthermore, their cost-saving introduction of an all-hybrid fleet to further off-set their carbon footprint and the fuel expenditure to the client is extremely forward thinking. The kind of thinking a city like Washington, DC needs to support. Uber provides SAFE, RELIABLE service. In a city where WMATA is becoming increasingly expensive and unreliable, don't you think we should have other alternatives???

I urge you to consider my plea.

-Susie Coggin  


**From:** [Ian Adams](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi modernization act minimum fare language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:18:28 PM

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Good evening Mr. Catania,

I'm writing to you to encourage you to oppose the amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would set a price floor for some car services like Uber. While I support Taxi modernization in general, I oppose minimum fare language because I think it will stifle creative businesses.

We shouldn't punish a company for coming up with a good idea that DC residents like (I'm speaking of Uber) - a price floor is not protecting anyone but the taxi cab lobby.

There's a good article about Uber here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/technology/uber-a-car-service-smartphone-app-plans-cheaper-service.html>

The fact that Washington DC was the only city mentioned in the article trying to \*discourage\* the business rather than encourage it saddens me. Forcing this company to set artificially prices is silly, it's anti-consumer, and it's wrong.

I urge you to oppose the minimum fare language when you vote tomorrow.

Thanks,  
Ian Adams  
Ward 1 resident

**From:** [Musca, Ruben N.](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:22 PM

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Good evening - I write you as a DC resident that works in Virginia. I don't have a car, and I often rely on public transportation to get me home or to work in the mornings. I received an email informing me that you intend on passing an amendment that would set Uber DC's rates at a minimum of five times that of a taxi.

I strongly urge you not to pass this amendment, as cabs in DC have very often refused to take me to Virginia, been rude, condescending, or have driven old and outdated taxicabs. Uber offers a great alternative to all of that. While I do still take cabs in DC, I believe that we should have the freedom to choose the best service for the price. If that best service is provided by someone other than a DC taxicab driver, the consumer should not be punished with higher fares for alternatives. DC cabs should work harder to offer service that competes!

Once again, I strongly urge you to allow DC, Virginia and Maryland residents to make their own choices when it comes to transport.

Best Regards,  
Ruben N. Musca

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Ruben N Musca  
Touchstone Energy  
Sr Manager, Marketing & Advertising  


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**From:** [Sarah Beth Groshart](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:29:33 PM

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D.C. City Council Members-

As a resident of the District of Columbia in Ward 6 and user of several types of public transportation, I write to request you vote against any amendment that would establish minimum fares for transportation alternatives to taxis, such as Uber. The goal of the City Council should be to foster competition in all industries that operate within the District. Unfortunately, setting a minimum fare much higher for one type of service and not all services is completely contrary to that goal. If all transportation services compete on a level playing field, District residents, who are consumers of these services, will not only have the best choices, but also, by choosing some services over others, have the ability to dictate its needs so these services ultimately adjust to meet that demand. We do not need the heavy hand of government to force consumer choice instead.

Thank you for your consideration, and please vote against any amendment that would establish minimum fares for transportation alternatives to taxis.

Sarah Beth Groshart  
Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Adam Lynn](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:16:17 PM

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Dear Chairman and at-large Councilmembers,

I am a constituent of yours living around Logan Circle. While I prefer to walk most places in DC, the mobile town car service known as Uber is a very welcome addition to the city's transportation options. Please ensure that our government officials in no way impede the introduction of new, innovative competition for D.C. residents. In particular, I would encourage you to support the amendment to be introduced by Councilmember Jack Evans that would have no minimum for Uber. Clearly the status quo is unacceptable as their new service, UberX, is not being offered in D.C. Please do not let an incumbent industry impede the introduction additional competition. It is a force that can do wonders to a settled industry's responsiveness and attitude towards its customers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Adam Lynn

**From:** [Christina Girardi](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:08:58 AM

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Mr. Brown,

I am writing to voice my concern for the amendment to the taxi modernization bill you will be voting on tomorrow. I have experienced, time and time again over the past twelve years, unfair treatment from the DC taxis by trying to overcharge me with extras, driving a longer route through the city to increase the fare, refusing to take me to my destination (mostly to Virginia), and unprofessional rude behavior. When Uber was introduced to this area, I was ecstatic to finally get great and professional service that is controlled by profitable company and when they implemented lower fares using hybrid cars they became more attractive to use and introduced competition to the taxi business in DC. I am extremely upset that DC is trying to impose a minimum fare that is five times the normal taxi fare (which already exceeds major cities, such as NYC, Boston, and Chicago). Not only is our economy going through hardship but people are not purchasing or maintaining their own vehicles and depend on this service for transportation.

I am writing to please vote against this amendment to protect the business and maintain competition in the taxi industry in DC. This will promote professionalism and reduce the criminal behavior that the current taxi companies thrive from.

Please contact me if you have further questions or would like to discuss.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina S. Girardi

**From:** [Christina Girardi](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:08:03 AM

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Mr. Wells,

I am writing to voice my concern for the amendment to the taxi modernization bill you will be voting on tomorrow. I have experienced, time and time again over the past twelve years, unfair treatment from the DC taxis by trying to overcharge me with extras, driving a longer route through the city to increase the fare, refusing to take me to my destination (mostly to Virginia), and unprofessional rude behavior. When Uber was introduced to this area, I was ecstatic to finally get great and professional service that is controlled by profitable company and when they implemented lower fares using hybrid cars they became more attractive to use and introduced competition to the taxi business in DC. I am extremely upset that DC is trying to impose a minimum fare that is five times the normal taxi fare (which already exceeds major cities, such as NYC, Boston, and Chicago). Not only is our economy going through hardship but people are not purchasing or maintaining their own vehicles and depend on this service for transportation.

I am writing to please vote against this amendment to protect the business and maintain competition in the taxi industry in DC. This will promote professionalism and reduce the criminal behavior that the current taxi companies thrive from.

Please contact me if you have further questions or would like to discuss.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina S. Girardi

**From:** [Christina Girardi](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:07:51 AM

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Mr. Catania,

I am writing to voice my concern for the amendment to the taxi modernization bill you will be voting on tomorrow. I have experienced, time and time again over the past twelve years, unfair treatment from the DC taxis by trying to overcharge me with extras, driving a longer route through the city to increase the fare, refusing to take me to my destination (mostly to Virginia), and unprofessional rude behavior. When Uber was introduced to this area, I was ecstatic to finally get great and professional service that is controlled by profitable company and when they implemented lower fares using hybrid cars they became more attractive to use and introduced competition to the taxi business in DC. I am extremely upset that DC is trying to impose a minimum fare that is five times the normal taxi fare (which already exceeds major cities, such as NYC, Boston, and Chicago). Not only is our economy going through hardship but people are not purchasing or maintaining their own vehicles and depend on this service for transportation.

I am writing to please vote against this amendment to protect the business and maintain competition in the taxi industry in DC. This will promote professionalism and reduce the criminal behavior that the current taxi companies thrive from.

Please contact me if you have further questions or would like to discuss.

Thank you,  
Christina

Christina S. Girardi

**From:** [Sarah Claire Born](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi modernization bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:27:24 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells:

My name is Sarah Born and I am a Ward 6 resident. My husband and I live near Eastern Market and have recently begun to use the car service Uber. We have a three-month old, so our need for taxis is less now than before, but we were turned onto Uber by some friends and have found it to be a very reliable, efficient, well-run, professional service that has rightfully gained traction its gained in cities around the country.

I have almost nothing negative to say about the taxi industry in DC. In fact, my husband and I frequently remark to one another how polite and interesting our cab drivers always are - and what a different (positive) experience it is to take a taxi in DC than, say, New York or Philadelphia.

However, I was appalled to learn tonight that the DC Council is expected to vote tomorrow on an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low-cost service in any form. Candidly, this smacks of cronyism and unsavory political maneuvering on behalf of a locally powerful interest group. DC is thriving in so many ways, and the Council should maintain DC's attractiveness as a marketplace for innovative concepts such as Uber.

There are a multitude of issues facing our city that are far more important, complex, and consequential than this. However, I was moved to write to you tonight because a vote in favor of this amendment would demonstrate brazen allegiance to a politically connected interest rather than prioritizing the best interests of District residents and workers. Please vote "no" on this amendment, and urge your colleagues to address more pressing matters.

Respectfully,

Sarah Claire Born

--

Sarah C. Born



**From:** [Matt Zanolli](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:31:40 PM

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Council Members,

As a 15 year resident, 13 year homeowner in the U Street neighborhood and an active voter I'm writing to express my opposition to any amendments by the DC Council that would limit the number of taxi cabs in Washington or in any way inhibit a fair and competitive environment. Low cost alternatives to current taxi providers should be encouraged not banned. Please see the Washington Post's June article as well as information received from Uber.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Matt Zanolli



[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-taxi-reforms-initially-approved-by-council/2012/06/05/gIQA0eI5GV\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-taxi-reforms-initially-approved-by-council/2012/06/05/gIQA0eI5GV_story.html)

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

**From:** [justin.shepherd](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:15 PM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

I am a constituent of yours living on 12th St NE, and am writing to voice my opposition to minimum fare language for sedan service vehicles. I am a regular user of Uber internet taxis, and can only wish that this service was expanded rather than limited in DC. This rule would, of course, do the latter by insisting on a 5x minimum fare, forcing my business to either my own private car or DC's traditional taxi fleet. The latter solution is not one I find palatable.

Compared to other major cities in the US and around the world, DC's taxi service ranks among the worst, with high prices, low price transparency, horribly unprofessional drivers, and low safety and cleanliness standards. Internet-based hire cars have been a breath of fresh air in the marketplace, and as a consumer I am frustrated that city government would consider removing my freedom of choice and my ability to economically express my views by shielding an outdated, corrupt, and non-competitive industry through legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this, and I would be happy to discuss further.

Best,

Justin Shepherd



**From:** [Rachel Miller](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:58 PM

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Dear Mr. Brown,

Much to my dismay today, I received an email notifying me of an upcoming vote by the DC City Council to force DC's Uber service to force them to enact a price floor that is five times above a taxi's minimum fare.

As a resident of Washington DC, I don't feel that this amendment represents the best interests of the city because it handicaps the choices DC residents are making when they use Uber services. I'm proud to support a company like Uber and restricting their access by not allowing them to offer lower fares and competitive rates is extremely unfair and stifles growth. Moreover, Uber's popularity should encourage other transportation businesses to set a higher standard of service, not push for protectionist measures.

I would ask that the City Council strike down this restrictive and unfair amendment to the Taxi Modernization Bill.

Sincerely yours,

Rachel Miller

**From:** [Roy Spooner Sr](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:25:49 AM

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Mr. Chairman and Messrs. Councilmembers,

Please excuse the last-minute plea but we have reached a desperate point. We the Taxicab industry implore you to delay the final vote on the proposed Taxi Modernization Bill and have some serious discussions with the taxicab industry before reconsidering same. Some of the proposals in this current version of the bill if enacted could be end of companies and drivers that have served this city and brought employment to DC residents. We are not opposed to modernization and have proven this by being the first DC taxicab to implement all of the proposed modernization without a mandate.

The bill as crafted will negatively impact the industry and not provide the "modernization" and definitely not the service that is intended. Listed below are key issues that require more consideration before a final vote is taken. This bill is being driven by an industry that has great autonomy to operate their business model but chooses to impose its preferences and will on another industry.

1. **Redefining a Taxicab as "Public Vehicle for Hire":** The majority of the taxicabs in the city are owned and operated by the drivers and not by the companies. These vehicles are the private property of the drivers and are utilized for their personal use when not on duty as a taxicab operator. Redefining the vehicle as "public vehicle for hire" infringes on the driver's ownership rights and places the driver and vehicle under enforcement scrutiny on-duty or off-duty. Even rented taxicabs are turned over to the driver for a weekly period and can be used for personal purposes when the vehicle is not in service as a taxicab.
2. **Vehicle Age Limit:** The DC Taxicab Commission recently passed a Vehicle Age Limit rule of not less than 5-years for a new vehicle being placed in service and up to 7-years for total useful life as a taxicab. Coming from no age-limits, the industry suggested up to 7-year old vehicle to be placed in service and up to 12-years for total useful life. All vehicles should have at least of 5-years usage for a normal return on investment. If this bill remains as is vehicle acquisition costs will rise, rental fees will rise and more owner/drivers will become renters if they stay in the business. With today's improving technology, higher fuel standards and more drivers changing to hybrid vehicles for the gas savings it is beyond imagination that a taxicab that is required to pass two annual inspections, operate in a 10-mile radius with decent roadways for about 8-hours per day would no longer be safe or have any more useful life after 7-years.
3. **Installing Smart Meters:** Why is the City taking on the responsibility for installing, maintaining and operating a back office process for "smart-meter" devices made by a sole vendor in privately-owned cars and the fact that the advertising revenue generated by the new equipment will be shared by the City and the vendor and not the vehicle owner? This modernization should be driven by setting reasonable standards and let free enterprise and open competition take hold. Meters were mandated and they were installed on time. The drivers were given the standards, a

reasonable installation time and a vendor selection list. The City is undertaking a task and all its associated liabilities that is generally performed by privately owned and regulated taxicab companies that operate within the set regulatory standards. As one of the drivers of the taxi modernization and even though we are installing them in our fleet I am convinced that back seat devices are not a viable long-term solution. I believe that mobile applications on a smart phone will achieve greater dispatching, taxicab tracking and payment transitioning than any other solution being considered.

4. **Passenger Surcharge or Tax:** This bill mandates the riding public to pay a \$.50 per trip surcharge or tax for necessary improvements. Why should the public pay a surcharge or tax to pay for the modernization that they deserve especially after the recent rate-hikes that now makes the District the most expensive ride in the DMV region. We have seen a decline in taxicab ridership and now this additional charge. There are also serious privacy violations of the driver and passenger since their whereabouts and financial transactions will be stored in a City database. The CFO gave his initial assessment of this bill and now he is being forced to support this bill. His initial objections on the funding were well founded. There is no guarantee on the accurate accounting and collection of this fee or tax. There is policy and then there is reality. There is no fool-proof method of recording and reporting this surcharge or tax.
5. **Wheelchair Accessibility Cabs:** The City should not mandate wheelchair accessible vehicles and impose the corresponding financial burden on the taxicab industry without some form of compensation. The City is in compliance of the ADA law with the implementation and support of the rollDC program. There are 20 vehicles and another 7 more that was recently approved. There is also the recent NY Court of Appeals ruling that struck down wheelchair accessible mandates in NYC because as long as the City provides wheelchair accessibility transportation it is ADA compliant. The City should expand the rollDC program if the study by the proposed advisory board shows that additional vehicles are required. Wheelchair accessibility is a highly specialized service that requires the right operators being screened, properly trained and carefully monitored to provide the best service and avoid serious liabilities. Mandating that this specialized service be performed by all taxicab companies without the proper protocols and controls could put the City at serious risks and liability.
6. **Uber Amendment:** The City is willing to vote on a bill that allows an amendment called the "Uber Amendment" that gives legitimacy to an out of a jurisdiction company and allow them to be unregulated by the DCTC. The company, the drivers and the vehicles who provide this new "sedan" service should be regulated just like the taxicab and limousine companies that operate in this city. By approving this bill the City is vouching for the safety of the residents and visitors that will ride in the vehicles of this unregulated company. This bill if approved would add untold number of additional vehicles to an already saturated taxicab and limousine industry.
7. **Enforcement Authority:** This bill will give the this DCTC unprecedented powers and authority to an agency that has demonstrated a total disregard for the existing policies in Title 31 and has been more on unlawful enforcement by untrained inspectors. There are no properly documented standard operating procedures in existence, the officers were poorly trained and have no through knowledge of existing laws. These individuals are not law enforcement officer and should not be given the same authority.
8. **Single Color Scheme:** Color schemes are common to the taxicab industry. The

color and company proliferation occurred under a single Commissioner who was driving a medallion agenda. As a long-standing dispatch services company, our color scheme is our brand. It is why parents tell their kids to only catch that certain cab when they are in the city and it is why customers call the number on the side of the cab. They are confident that they will get to their destination safely and that there is someone who will answer and respond when that number is called. Single color schemes do not prevent out-of-state drivers from operating in the city, it does not improve service in the underserved areas and anywhere else. It does the opposite because it is easier to duplicate, it erases a company's easy and recognizable identification and it removes the security of customer safety. What if the city regulated that all hotels be painted the same color and have the same amenities?

As stated before, we wholeheartedly support taxicab modernization. Credit cards could have been mandated and been in place several months ago instead of waiting for this bill. If the City works with the industry we can move all of these initiatives forward through greater cooperation and support.

Sincerely

Roy D. Spooner  
General Manager  
Yellow Cab Co. of DC Inc.



**From:** [Todd Valentine](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Todd Valentine](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill - Uber Cab Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:19:59 PM

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I am writing to express my displeasure over the recently introduced Taxi Modernization Bill as it relates to setting a minimum price for sedan services such as Uber Taxi. I have resided in and around the Washington, DC area for my entire life (40 years), and frequently use taxi's to drive me from downtown to Upper NW (Chevy Chase), and to Bethesda. I happen to be a black male, and have no difficulty hailing a taxi from the street during the daytime when I am wearing my typical work attire (a suit). However, I have a vastly different experience when wearing more casual clothes at night or on weekends. I frequently dine Downtown, in Penn Quarter, and in Georgetown, and occasionally visit bars and clubs in the DuPont Circle area. In my estimation, on more than 50 occasions over the past 10 years, I have been flat out refused service when trying to hail a taxi to take me back to either Upper NW, or downtown Bethesda where I currently live. After having more than one driver flat out refuse to take me, I usually eventually find a driver willing to take me, but at a steeply negotiated price. It is not uncommon for me to end up paying \$40 for a DC taxi to take me from DuPont Circle to Friendship Heights. When I am completely unable to get a taxi driver to even stop for me, I usually end up with the utter embarrassment of having a Caucasian or Asian friend, or even stranger hail one for me. I still end up paying the steeply negotiated price, but at least I make it home. On several occasions I have asked the cab drivers why they have refused my service or required that I pay 2-3 times the normal fare, and the answer that I get is that they can make more money with short trips in areas closer to downtown, and, that I don't look like I really live in Chevy Chase or Bethesda and it's for their own safety. This is particularly insulting coming from DC taxi drivers, the majority of which are of African descent.

For all of these reasons, for the past year or so, I have been using Uber taxi. I use my iPhone to have a sedan pick me up, and I have never received a complaint from a driver about where I am going, or how much I am willing to pay. Unless an Uber user has stolen a smartphone with a victims credit card information, the driver knows exactly who he or she is picking up, and there are no safety concerns. The only problem with Uber is that it is expensive, but worth it for folks like me who can afford it, and are tired of the embarrassment of dealing with DC taxi drivers. It would be fantastic if Uber were able to offer a discounted service as planned, but it seems that theis latest Taxi Modernization bill will kill these plans. For all of the reasons that I have described above, I urge you to consider amending this bill.

**From:** [Bion Ludwig](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:41:53 AM

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DC City Council,

As a long-time DC resident, I am writing to voice **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the proposed taxi bill amendment being considered tonight.

I find it shocking that a government would pass a law prohibiting a business from offering a service to consumers at rates that are highly competitive. In a free market economy, consumers should decide whether the business model can exist. If one company develops technology to improve efficiency and profit by offering a similar - or in this case, better service - at a competitive or low price, then consumers should be given the opportunity to patronize that company. Instead of voting to fix prices and cause voters to pay more for transportation, I would think City Council would encourage the taxi cab industry to adopt similar technology and compete on better service and efficiency. Availability and safety are the most important aspects of transportation. Unfortunately, the taxicabs in DC have left a large void in failing to address these aspects, a void which Uber is filling, for which I and my neighbors and friends are grateful. Uber has come in at a pricepoint slightly higher than taxicabs in some situations, but in a scenario where taxis are neither available nor reliable to dispatch, we have had little choice but to accept this price point. Now Uber wants to further improve our situation by reducing cost, and the minimum fare language prevents this. The minimum fare language is anti-capitalist, anti-free market and anti-consumer. If the Council passes the minimum fare language, this will be a slap in the face to District residents like me, whom the taxicabs fail to serve. Passing the minimum fare language would be a clear signal that the Council places more importance on lining the pockets of the taxicab industry than it does on the safety, availability and affordability of transportation to District residents.

Regards,

Bion Ludwig



Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Katherine Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Modernization Bill Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:59:15 AM

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Councilman Wells,

I have been a resident of Ward 6 for 4 years and recently purchased a home in SW DC, an area that is grossly underserved by DC taxi cabs. I have not owned a car since moving to DC and rely on public transportation and taxi cabs (DC Cabs and Uber) to get me where I need to go. I recently came across an article indicating that the DC City Council is set to vote today on an amendment to the Taxi Modernization Bill which would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices. This certainly cannot be true. I would hope that the DC City Council (officials elected by residents of DC, not taxi cab drivers who from my experience mostly live in MD and VA) would not be trying to stifle the free market. I can understand why DC taxi cab drivers would be upset at the prospect of a competitive service. After all, the DC taxi cab system is unreliable and filthy. I have had numerous empty DC cabs pass me on the street or not show up when I have called the company directly for a cab. If another more reliable, safe and clean business were to offer competitive prices, yes the DC taxi cab system would lose money. I say good. The DC City Council should be working to improve the DC taxi cab system rather than shutting out other companies from operating in a free market. If this amendment is passed, I will make a point to use Uber at the exclusion of DC cabs, even if I have to pay more money. At least I will know that I will reach my destination safely and reliably.

I hope that you and the other DC City Council members will listen to the residents of DC and vote against this amendment.

Thank you for your time,

Katherine Wilson

**From:** [Karen Petel](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi modernization bill vote tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:32 PM

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Council Members,

Uber is much more than a viable alternative to the dirty, disgusting taxi's of DC that embarrass our City.

When no cab company will answer the phone, Uber is there. When a cab driver decides half way through a cab ride at 1am that they don't want to take you any further and dumps you in no man's land, Uber drives you all of the way home. When DC cabs refuse to turn the AC on (despite my right to have it on), Uber's cars are comfortable.

Why must we the Council continue to make it harder and harder for residents to find a little comfort in our City? Please stop kowtowing to the Taxi Cab Commission. They refuse to make our lives easier, so why do we make their existence so simple???

If Uber is the only transportation company that is going to allow us to Go Green, shouldn't we encourage that? Shouldn't we encourage the competition among the transportation and cab companies - so that they all clean up their acts?

Try this - call Yellow Cab or Diamond, and see how pleasant they are to you on the phone, or how long it takes them just to locate you a cab. Then, if you are lucky enough to eventually get a cab, is it clean? Is the driver friendly? Is the cab something you would be proud to have tourists take? Will they even take a credit card, or do they demand cash only? Try it a few times - then have a hearing and ask them why they can't improve?

It is hard to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high. As a voter and resident of DC, I ask you to please stop protecting the [taxi industry](#). They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and that is wrong and unfair to the people who voted for you.

I hope you find the courage to do the right thing, and live up to promises to clean up our city by voting against this ridiculous amendment to limit green transportation.

Your neighbor, taxpayer and voter,

Karen Petel





Just a reminder of our taxi situation:

**Dozens of Cabbies Charged in Corruption Case:**

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Dozens-of-Cabbies-Charged-in-Taxicab-Corruption-Case-63309852.html>

**From:** [Karen Petel](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi modernization bill vote tomorrow  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:01 PM

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Council Members,

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It is hard to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high. As a voter and resident of DC, I ask you to please stop protecting the taxi industry. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and that is wrong and unfair to the people who voted for you.

I hope you find the courage to do the right thing, and live up to promises to clean up our city by voting against this ridiculous amendment to limit green transportation.

Your neighbor, taxpayer and voter,

Karen Petel



Just a reminder of our taxi situation:

**Dozens of Cabbies Charged in Corruption Case:**

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Dozens-of-Cabbies-Charged-in-Taxicab-Corruption-Case-63309852.html>

**From:** [M](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi price floor  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:40:32 AM

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Good morning Esteemed Council Members,

I appreciate your concern for the D.C. taxi drivers; however, the reality is that the transportation market in DC is changing and evolving, and they have not been able to keep up. There is no question that technology has always been a catalyst for economic and societal progression. It creates efficiencies and allows opportunity for quality of life enhancements. Currently, we are now witnessing this formative phenomenon in action with the emergence of Uber.

The Uber option has created a valuable resource for D.C. citizens: more freedom of movement within the city and the metro area allows citizens to patronize more D.C. establishments and promotes consumption in more diverse corners of the city.

The Uber option promotes the travel of Maryland and Virginia citizens INTO the city. Without worrying about how to find a cab on H Street at 3 AM, it frees them up to venture into the District more often.

The Uber option has fostered the type of innovation that has made America great. In such an international city as the District of Columbia, Uber showcases the American propensity towards modernizing innovation.

The Uber option allows the students of the MANY colleges and universities within D.C to travel for a more affordable price. This will inevitably cut down on drunk driving and make D.C a safer place to drive.

The Uber option provides a convenient and effective alternative to Metro travel on the weekends. The Metro system is going through some very constructive repairs right now, and Uber has stepped in to alleviate the stress placed on the system and the citizens who use it.

Again, Uber is a product of innovation and free market dynamics - two things emblematic of our civilization. To restrict the value that it creates is to stifle progression and flag the economy. It runs counter to what the people of D.C. want and what is good for them for the reasons stated above.

Please allow Uber to continue their operations within the District of Columbia by striking the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment on behalf of the millions of people in the D.C. Metro Area.

Thank you very much for your time, representation and service.

Sincerely,

Mike Lettiere

**From:** [M](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Travis, Uber CEO](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi price floor  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:59:10 AM

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Good morning,

I appreciate your concern for the D.C. taxi drivers; however, the reality is that the transportation market in DC is changing and evolving, and they have not been able to keep up. There is no question that technology has always been a catalyst for economic and societal progression. It creates efficiencies and allows opportunity for quality of life enhancements. Currently, we are now witnessing this formative phenomenon in action with the emergence of Uber.

The Uber option has created a valuable resource for D.C. citizens: more freedom of movement within the city and the metro area allows citizens to patronize more D.C. establishments and promotes consumption in more diverse corners of the city.

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Please allow Uber to continue their operations within the District of Columbia by striking the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment on behalf of the millions of people in the D.C. Metro Area.

Thank you very much for your time, representation and service.

Sincerely,

Mike Lettiere

**From:** [Peter Shearer](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Price Floor Legislative Language  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:06:57 PM

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Mr. Wells,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed language addition to legislation regarding taxi fares in DC. It has come to my attention that language has been added to this bill that places a restriction on the minimum fare that passenger transport service would be able to charge. I believe this is an impediment to free market pricing in regards to transportation in the city. As many studies have proved over the years, access to cheap and reliable transportation pays dividends for economies, whether on a local or national scale. I believe this language will unnecessarily restrict potential economic benefit in the city, especially in areas such as Ward 6 (H Street corridor in particular) that are not metro accessible. The car service Uber provides much needed increased supply of transportation on busy weekend nights in the H street area and the language proposed will inhibit their operation in the city. Restricting their operations in the district provides no benefit to the residents of DC. In fact, it has the opposite effect. Please consider these opinions as the bill goes to vote tomorrow.

Thank You.

--

Peter Shearer  
Cell: (602) [REDACTED]

**From:** [Tom Wilkinson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Protection  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:55:25 PM

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Mr. Catania:

I am writing regarding your plan to set a minimum charge for taxi alternatives such as Uber.

I recognize that tax fairs are a regulated area in most cities and that you have an interest in protecting the consumers in this regard. However, your pending action will only help the tax companies and will have no effect on the lives of the drivers, and will only harm the consumers.

Uber has opened a viable improvement to the lives of the drives by allowing them to enter the business independently, and has freed them from the yolk of the taxi companies.

I urge you to allow Uber to set their own prices. It is already a premium service and does not cut into the taxi business. For example, I use Uber for impressing clients and hail cabs for shorter trips by myself. Raising the fees will not change my selection, only my costs.

Best regards,

**Tom Wilkinson, CPA**  
Managing Partner



PMB Helin Donovan, LLP  
Consultants and Certified Public Accountants  
5918 W. Courtyard Dr., Suite 500  
Austin, Texas 78730

office  
direct line  
cell

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**From:** [Tom Wilkinson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Protection  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:54:24 PM

---

Mr. Wells:

I am writing regarding your plan to set a minimum charge for taxi alternatives such as Uber.

I recognize that tax fairs are a regulated area in most cities and that you have an interest in protecting the consumers in this regard. However, your pending action will only help the tax companies and will have no effect on the lives of the drivers, and will only harm the consumers.

Uber has opened a viable improvement to the lives of the drives by allowing them to enter the business independently, and has freed them from the yolk of the taxi companies.

I urge you to allow Uber to set their own prices. It is already a premium service and does not cut into the taxi business. For example, I use Uber for impressing clients and hail cabs for shorter trips by myself. Raising the fees will not change my selection, only my costs.

Best regards,

**Tom Wilkinson, CPA**  
Managing Partner



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Austin, Texas 78730

[REDACTED] office  
[REDACTED] direct line  
[REDACTED] cell

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**From:** [Tom Wilkinson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Protection  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:53:04 PM

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Mr. Brown,

I am writing regarding your plan to set a minimum charge for taxi alternatives such as Uber.

I recognize that tax fairs are a regulated area in most cities and that you have an interest in protecting the consumers in this regard. However, your pending action will only help the tax companies and will have no effect on the lives of the drivers, and will only harm the consumers.

Uber has opened a viable improvement to the lives of the drives by allowing them to enter the business independently, and has freed them from the yolk of the taxi companies.

I urge you to allow Uber to set their own prices. It is already a premium service and does not cut into the taxi business. For example, I use Uber for impressing clients and hail cabs for shorter trips by myself. Raising the fees will not change my selection, only my costs.

Best regards,

**Tom Wilkinson, CPA**  
Managing Partner



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**From:** [Jim Sweeney](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxi rates  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:10:50 PM

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Dear Council Member

As a resident of Fargo, North Dakota, I travel to “the District” several times per year on business. I recently started using Uber car service and find it a good alternative to taxi service when available. Washington, DC is better off with this service and it is a great asset you have that many cities do not.

As a business owner, I find it unconscionable that a city council would get involved in minimum fares in taxi/car service. Let the free market take its course and keep government out of any pricing or regulation. PLEASE STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE 8C in taxi/car service vehicles

If you haven’t tried Uber cars yet, try it and you’ll know what I mean.

**James Sweeney**  
**Fargo, North Dakota**



**From:** [Mike](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Service  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:20 PM

---

As an avid Cab and Uber user, I am writing to ask that you vote against the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment tomorrow. While having a regulated Taxi industry in DC is necessary - to act against a successful startup at the behest of a politically powerful and highly profitable established industry is just wrong. Many of DC Cab drivers are a threat other drivers, pedestrians, and their passengers. They do not deserve to be protected in this manner. I have ridden in Uber's many times and found the drivers and the service they provide to be efficient, professional, clean and enjoyable.

Sincerely,  
Mike Gioiello  
Ward 6 Resident

--

"Whalermania is what everyone's talking about, and I'm just glad to be a part of it."  
-- Joel Quenneville

**From:** [Angela Heverling](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:09:01 AM

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Mr. Catania,

I am a Ward 1 resident, living in Mt. Pleasant. Please vote to strike down the minimum fair language preventing Uber from lowering its prices. Taxis in DC are unreliable and unsafe. We need as much competition as possible for those of us who rely on public transportation and do not have cars. Uber is a great alternative because they accept credit cards and are safe and reliable, none of which is true for DC taxis. I have been forced to share taxis with strangers, I have been in taxis that were clearly falling apart and in need of repair, I have had friends be assaulted and offended by taxi drivers in this city, I have had taxi drivers refuse to take me where I want to go. I don't always feel safe alone in taxis in DC. The City Council should not be denying me affordable alternatives to this terrible public service in DC.

There are many of us in DC who are lucky enough not to need cars to get around this city. Please do not deny us another alternative for doing so.

Thank you

Angela Heverling

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20010

**From:** [Dan Corrigan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Taxi/Uber debate  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:36:02 PM

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**From:** Dan Corrigan [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Taxi/Uber debate

Mr. Wells,

My wife and I are ward 6 residents and voters who appreciate having Uber as one of our transportation options. We both use Metro and Capital Bike Share regularly. We share one car and use DC taxis often, but when my wife discovered Uber on a trip to Boston last year, we eagerly began to use it here. It is clean, reliable, safe transportation for those occasions when a cab is not easily available. We have had and continue to have problems with DC cabs over charging, refusing to pick us up because they don't want to bring us to our neighborhood and generally acting as if the council and city's rules don't apply to them. If the council makes a decision to unfairly limit the ability of Uber to compete in DC we as residents will suffer. The taxi system in this town has been coddled for decades and never forced to adapt to benefit passengers. The change from inscrutable zones that even locals barely understood, to the current meter system was a good start. Allowing competition from innovative companies like Uber is the next step. Please vote to support your constituents and do not hinder Uber's ability to continue to compete in our city.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Corrigan

**From:** [Dan Corrigan](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi/Uber debate  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:30 PM

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Mr. Wells,

My wife and I are ward 6 residents and voters who appreciate having Uber as one of our transportation options. We both use Metro and Capital Bike Share regularly. We share one car and use DC taxis often, but when my wife discovered Uber on a trip to Boston last year, we eagerly began to use it here. It is clean, reliable, safe transportation for those occasions when a cab is not easily available. We have had and continue to have problems with DC cabs over charging, refusing to pick us up because they don't want to bring us to our neighborhood and generally acting as if the council and city's rules don't apply to them. If the council makes a decision to unfairly limit the ability of Uber to compete in DC we as residents will suffer. The taxi system in this town has been coddled for decades and never forced to adapt to benefit passengers. The change from inscrutable zones that even locals barely understood, to the current meter system was a good start. Allowing competition from innovative companies like Uber is the next step. Please vote to support your constituents and do not hinder Uber's ability to continue to compete in our city.

Sincerely,

Daniel Corrigan

**From:** [Jack Montgomery](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxi/Uber Vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:02 PM

---

Hello Mr. Wells,

I am one of your constituents near Eastern Market. I understand there is a vote this week regarding setting a price floor for the Uber Cab Services. I am a great fan of the Uber services and feel their innovative business model can only improve transportation in the city. Please understand I am also a fan of the DC Metro, metro bus, and taxi services, but would like the option to continue enjoying the innovative services of Uber. I encourage you to vote against any laws which would artificially alter their ability to set their rates and provide viable competition to the DC Taxi Services.

Many Thanks,  
Jack Montgomery

**From:** [madieye sall](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED] [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#);  
[Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#);  
[Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Members Only \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** taxicab bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:50:10 AM

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councilmembers

Do not destroy our livelihood. We have families to feed. SLAVERY HAS BEEN OVER LONGTIME AGO. Why do you want to force us to work for these out of state companies.

Let us see if uber is going to serve the people in anacostia or benning rd or anywhere else but downtown.

These regulations are not for a free society. The communist countries used to do this.



**From:** [Jimmy Burdette](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxicab Amendment: Strike Down Uber Price Floors  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:58:44 PM

---

Mr. Brown,

I am writing this message in response to the so-called "Uber Amendment" your Council is scheduled to vote on tomorrow. As a Ward 1 resident of this city, I strongly urge you to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.

I live near Georgia Avenue in Park View, in an area that has begun to experience some redevelopment over the past few years, though many DC cab drivers still view with a very negative opinion. For this reason, any time I have attempted to hail a cab on the streets near my house, I've found that DC taxicabs rarely drive through my streets. Further, on several occasions, I have been refused service from DC taxicab drivers who do not want to take me to my destination, despite the illegality of this practice. I continue to specify "DC taxicab drivers" in these statements, because I want to differentiate these drivers from Uber's. Uber drivers have provided fantastic service to my area of town, and are always prompt and friendly whether picking me up or dropping me off in these locations.

Uber provides a fantastic service that DC taxicab drivers are not willing to provide in my area. I applaud their efforts to further enhance the customer's experience through their offering of UberX, thus reducing the fees associated with their rides. As Uber seems to be the only car or taxi service in the DC area that cares about their customer and is working to improve their ability to meet our needs, I feel they are being unfairly discriminated against with this Uber Amendment, creating a price floor for the services they offer.

This is an issue I feel strongly about and I appreciate your consideration of this, along with the hundreds of other emails urging you to do the same. As a US citizen and representative in this city, it is your duty to protect free markets and not create an unneeded cost floor to protect our corrupt taxi industry. Decisions like these are what residents will remember come election time.

Thank you,  
James Burdette  
Ward 1 Resident

**From:** [Parker Hamilton Poling](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxicab minimum fare amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:03 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to vote NO on the minimum fare amendment before the DC Council tomorrow.

Simply put, this amendment is a government intervention that only serves to further entrench the current taxi system. As a resident of Capitol Hill, I cannot walk outside of my house and hail a cab. I have to walk at least .5 mile to find a cab, which completely defeats the purpose of a taxi. Attempting to call a taxi is unreliable at best. Uber, a startup company, has attempted to enter the marketplace to provide a needed service for consumers like myself. DC cabs see this as a threat to their business model and are leveraging their political influence to protect their profit margin. This is antithetical to the free market. I urge you to vote no on the minimum fare amendment.

Sincerely,

Parker Hamilton Poling



**From:** [Mark Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxicab Modernization Bill  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:45:29 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells:

I am a Capitol Hill resident who has come to greatly appreciate the UBER car service for its safety, convenience, and great customer service. As a daily Metro rider and Capitol Bikeshare member, I have found UBER to be a welcome addition to my transportation choices.

In addition to reducing our reliance on our own vehicles to move throughout the city, we have found the professional and courteous drivers that contract with UBER to be a great alternative to the rude and sometimes dangerous personalities of DC cab drivers. Additionally, outside of the main thoroughfares on the Hill, taxis are a rare sight on neighborhood streets and request for taxi services via dispatch is unreliable at best, in comparison.


It is for these reasons I was distressed to hear that the D.C. Council may support an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for UBER to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form that competes with DC Taxi Cab Commission vehicles.

The DC Taxi Cab Commission seemingly proposed this amendment in order to prevent UBER from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set UBER's minimum fare at current rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. Consequently, the amendment under consideration handicaps a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that UBER is restricted in offering a its own market researched prices.

I am seriously concerned about this punitive government intervention in the transportation market in the District and the impact it will have on safe, reliable transprotation alternatives. As an 18-year resident of the District, I understand the sway that the taxicab industry has over many members of the City Council, however tomorrow represents an opportunity to ensure that the residents and visitors to D.C. are offered a fair choice in transportation options.

Please do not support the anti-UBER amendments offered in the Taxi Modernization Bill and strike the minimum fair requirements in the proposed legislation tomorrow.

Regards,  
Mark Stevens



**From:** [Pamela Bender](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxicab regulation  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:41:35 AM

---

Dear Ms. Cheh,

I am writing to express my concern with the amendment currently being considered by the council, which would require sedan services to require 5X the minimum taxicab fare. While I understand that our current cab companies wish to protect their market share, I believe that this amendment will greatly limit competition, innovation and quality for DC residents and don't understand why the council would wish to avoid improvement across taxicab and car services which would benefit DC residents and others who use them.

As a resident of Glover Park (away from Wisconsin Avenue or other thoroughfares where I could easily hail a cab), I typically have to call a dispatcher to get a cab when I need one. I have found that standard DC taxicabs consistently take far longer to show up when called (or never show up at all) than Uber cars. This is particularly true at the times when I most need a cab to be prompt and show up when the dispatcher says it will -- airport runs or evenings, when I am cabbing to make a dinner reservation or other time-sensitive event. If the weather is bad, the chances of getting a cab to show up within an hour (or at all) are positively miniscule. I have never had these problems when using Uber or other non-taxi car services.

Further, by making it unprofitable for Uber, or other services, to expand their options with energy-efficient smaller vehicles, this bill essentially seeks to avoid allowing a company to make a choice that will benefit our environment and the air quality in the DC area. Surely you and other members of the council wish to vote against a healthy planet and clean air?

Passing this amendment would directly and negatively impact me, my neighbors, and others who live in non-taxicab heavy neighborhoods as well as the environment and quality of living in the DC area. I respectfully ask that you do not pass the amendment with the current language regarding sedan service charges in comparison to taxi fares. Thank you for your consideration of my point of view.

Yours,

Pamela Bender  
42nd Street, Glover Park

---

Pamela Bender |   
[www.linkedin.com/in/pamelajbender](http://www.linkedin.com/in/pamelajbender)

**From:** [Baecher Gregory B.](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Taxis  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:03:14 PM

---

Sirs and Madam:

I urge you to support council member Evans' amendment. Please prove worthy of our vote in the next election.

Very truly yours,  
G. Baecher

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Taxis  
**Date:** July 10, 2012 1:52:17 PM EDT  
**To:** "Baecher Gregory B." <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

---

**From:** Baecher Gregory B. [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:22 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Taxis

Sir,

As your constituent, I urge you to support Uber's quality service at a reasonable price.

It is not hard for me to believe that an elected body like the Council would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high on it's constituents since I believe that the City Council is in the hands of the taxi industry. But, please prove me wrong and earn my vote in the next election.

Regards,  
Gregory Baecher

**From:** [Andy Keller](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Taxis vs Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:57:01 AM

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Please vote to strike down this ludicrous new regulation. It is anti-competition and clearly just meant to preserve the establishment. It is nearly as offensive to me, a DC commuter, as lowering the speed limit on our 8 lane expressway to 40mph simply to make the speed cameras more potent.

**From:** [Erick Mullen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thank You -- Hands Off UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:35:07 PM

---

It's the best thing you can do for the DC Taxi industry. Just last night my business partner from NYC had to demand the use of the meter in a DC cab. The driver preferred to quote a flat rate.

Competition will force cab companies to improve service -- punishing UBER does the opposite: reward mediocrity.

UBER has helped my business -- no more missed flights because Diamond Cab no-shows -- and has helped my family because my wife (you remember Kelly Craighead) and daughters can secure a ride from downtown to our home in Columbia Heights.

THANK YOU!

**Erick Mullen**  
**Mullen & Co. - 6th Floor**  
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Office: (202) [REDACTED]  
Mobile: (202) [REDACTED]  
Fax: (202) [REDACTED]  
[www.mullenandcompany.com](http://www.mullenandcompany.com)

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**From:** [Emily Acland](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for proposing an alternative amendment.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:58:02 AM

---

Greetings,

I just signed the following petition addressed to: DC City Council.

-----  
Support the Evans/Wells Uber amendment which is fully supportive of Uber and sedan drivers dictating the right prices for their service.

Having safe and affordable transportation options in a city is important for all of it's residents.

-----  
Sincerely,

Emily Acland

--

Emily Acland  
Washington, DC



**From:** [Johnathan Lozier](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thanks!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:39:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Dear David,

Tell me it's not soo... Surely the council can see the need for cleaner, safer, economically friendly, and not to mention affordable transportation alternatives to the not so pleasant, picky and often times rude taxicabs in the District? Uber is just that.

It is my hope you will strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment

Talk soon,

Johnathan

**Johnathan B. Lozier**

Senior Legislative Outreach Associate, Women In Government Foundation, Inc.  
1319 F Street, NW | Suite 710 | Washington, DC 20004

██████████ x214 (w) | ██████████ | ██████████



Women In Government Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of all female state legislators across the country which provides educational resources, expert forums, networking and leadership opportunities.

Follow us online to learn more!  

**From:** [Jon Camfield](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thanks! (For Uber)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:00:10 AM

---

Tommy,

Thanks for supporting Uber!

--

Jon Camfield

<http://www.JonCamfield.com>

PGP Key: <http://joncamfield.com/pgp.key.txt>

**From:** [Kate Schuler](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** the "uber amendment"  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:14:22 AM


---

Dear Council members,

I am writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the "Uber amendment." Uber has established a popular, viable, and much needed service in this city. To unfairly and unnecessarily punish the success of this small business is unwarranted and unjustified and will be remembered in the voting booth.

Please vote to strike this language.

Sincerely,  
Kate Schuler

  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Joshua Wehner](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The "Uber amendment"  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:29 PM

---

Hi there! I currently live in Washington, DC, in the "NoMa" neighborhood (at 130 M St NE, specifically), and I am writing regarding the "[Uber amendment](#)", specifically, the part of the amendment that requires sedans to charge a minimum of 5 times the rates offered by taxi cabs. It seems that this is intended to make it harder for Uber to operate in the district, and the minimum of 5 times the rate seems arbitrary, and anti-competitive.

I hope you'll vote "no" on this amendment.

Thanks!

-- Joshua

**From:** [Rebecca Maddage](#)  
**To:** [rebecca](#)  
**Cc:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: The "Uber Amendment"!?  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:55:41 AM

---

Dear Councilmembers Orange and Catania,

The following quote has been attributed to Mary Cheh:

"This amendment does not take away any transportation choices. In fact, it expands them in a fair and safe way."

How is restricting Uber from offering a lower priced alternative to taxicabs "fair" to us, your constituents, the consumers? How is forcing Uber to increase their existing price structure "fair"? How is this "fair" to reasonable free-market competition?

It's not even "fair" to the taxi industry, it clearly gives preferential treatment to them.

sent from iPad  
~ rebecca

On Jul 9, 2012, at 18:43, rebecca <[REDACTED]> wrote:

- > Dear Councilmembers Orange and Catania,
- >
- > The taxis in Washington, DC are filthy rattraptraps, driven by maniacs who take the long way to get paying customers from point A to point B. And the drivers refuse paying customers. Washington's transportation industry needs alternatives, which Uber provides.
- >
- > Last year when I was ill and not yet diagnosed with lyme disease, I walked out of my office on Constitution Ave and three taxi drivers refused to take me to Sibley Hospital! One rolled down a window and never unlocked the door. Two others claimed they didn't know where Sibley was. The driver who finally did take me, told me that no one wants to drive that far out of downtown in the middle of the day. Are any of these valid for refusing a paying customer?
- >
- > And on two occasions drivers went blocks out of the way to get me to my destination. One was from Wisconsin & Macomb to 18th & Columbia... the driver took the route of Dupont Circle which is ridiculous. And the other drove from the Zoo to Cathedral & New Mexico by way of Fulton to Tunlaw, and when I questioned him, he said it was faster... no, it not faster but by this time he was well on his way down Fulton to Tunlaw, and to do a U-turn would have added even more time & distance.
- >
- > Uber on the other hand, I have used twice and been very please. They arrive promptly, take a direct route, and provide cars that are clean and stable. Also, Uber costs a little more than a taxi, so I did pay for these elements of good customer service that some may think are luxuries.
- >
- > Rather than making it impossible for Uber to operate in DC as competition to other transportation providers, make the taxis operate in a way that is more customer service oriented.
- >
- > The Council didn't try to keep Cars2Go from competing with ZipCar, they encouraged the competition by making it more difficult for ZipCar to have on-street parking. Now, we have two carshare options that both offer quality transportation through somewhat different structures. Isn't it possible for Uber and taxis to provide something similar?
- >
- > Approving the "Uber Amendment" is not in service to your constituents, allowing an alternative to taxis is. If the City Council votes for the "Uber Amendment" as it is currently written, then it is clear that the City Council is not working for the people who elected you... you're working for the taxi industry, which I will remember in 2014.
- >

>  
> Sincerely,  
> Rebecca Maddage  
> [REDACTED]

**From:** [rebecca](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The "Uber Amendment"!?  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:43:05 PM

---

Dear Councilmembers Orange and Catania,

The taxis in Washington, DC are filthy rattletraps, driven by maniacs who take the long way to get paying customers from point A to point B. And the drivers refuse paying customers. Washington's transportation industry needs alternatives, which Uber provides.

Last year when I was ill and not yet diagnosed with lyme disease, I walked out of my office on Constitution Ave and three taxi drivers refused to take me to Sibley Hospital! One rolled down a window and never unlocked the door. Two others claimed they didn't know where Sibley was. The driver who finally did take me, told me that no one wants to drive that far out of downtown in the middle of the day. Are any of these valid for refusing a paying customer?


And on two occasions drivers went blocks out of the way to get me to my destination. One was from Wisconsin & Macomb to 18th & Columbia... the driver took the route of Dupont Circle which is ridiculous. And the other drove from the Zoo to Cathedral & New Mexico by way of Fulton to Tunlaw, and when I questioned him, he said it was faster... no, it not faster but by this time he was well on his way down Fulton to Tunlaw, and to do a U-turn would have added even more time & distance.

Uber on the other hand, I have used twice and been very please. They arrive promptly, take a direct route, and provide cars that are clean and stable. Also, Uber costs a little more than a taxi, so I did pay for these elements of good customer service that some may think are luxuries.

Rather than making it impossible for Uber to operate in DC as competition to other transportation providers, make the taxis operate in a way that is more customer service oriented.

The Council didn't try to keep Cars2Go from competing with ZipCar, they encouraged the competition by making it more difficult for ZipCar to have on-street parking. Now, we have two carshare options that both offer quality transportation through somewhat different structures. Isn't it possible for Uber and taxis to provide something similar?

Approving the "Uber Amendment" is not in service to your constituents, allowing an alternative to taxis is. If the City Council votes for the "Uber Amendment" as it is currently written, then it is clear that the City Council is not working for the people who elected you... you're working for the taxi industry, which I will remember in 2014.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Maddage  




**From:** [Mike Enos](#)  
**To:** [Mike Enos](#)  
**Subject:** Re: THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:49:12 PM

---

Thanks to those of you representing the interests of the people who live and work in DC, and not the interests of the taxi companies who want to bar fair and innovative competition. Please pass the Uber amendment WITHOUT the FARE MINIMUMS. Let Uber compete in DC!

Thank you,

Mike Enos  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 6:43 PM, Mike Enos <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Dear members of the DC city council,

Please vote against the amendment to enact a price floor for Uber's service. Uber provides a competitive service that is more accessible and accountable than current taxi cab service in the DC metro area. Competition is the only way we will see an improvement in taxi service in DC.

Thank you,

Mike Enos  
[REDACTED]

(I am not a DC resident, but live in Northern Virginia and am often in DC for work and recreation)

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

**From:** [Mike Enos](#)  
**Subject:** THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:43:17 PM

---

Dear members of the DC city council,

Please vote against the amendment to enact a price floor for Uber's service. Uber provides a competitive service that is more accessible and accountable than current taxi cab service in the DC metro area. Competition is the only way we will see an improvement in taxi service in DC.

Thank you,

Mike Enos

[REDACTED]

(I am not a DC resident, but live in Northern Virginia and am often in DC for work and recreation)

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**.

**From:** [Suzie Carroll](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The DC Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:25:44 PM


---

Dear Councilman Wells,

As a resident of your ward, I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment scheduled for consideration tomorrow. It was not until Uber's arrival in DC that I was able to stop worrying about whether I'd find a cab willing to bring me back to Capitol Hill if I decided to spend an evening in NW.

Please do not let the DC Taxi Cab Commission ruin a service I and so many of my neighbors have come to rely on.

Thank you,  
Suzie Carroll



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[Washington Fine Properties](#)



## [D.C. Council Votes Tuesday on Uber Amendment to Taxi Modernization Bill](#)

**Jul 09, 2012 05:44 pm | Watched Pot**

The **D.C. City Council** plans to vote Tuesday on a proposed amendment to the **D.C. Taxi Modernization Bill** that would make it illegal for [Uber](#) (the on-demand private car service launched late last year in D.C. and now in nine U.S. cities) to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. On July 4, ...



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## [Gospel, According To Hamilton](#)

**Jul 09, 2012 09:51 am | Janet Staihar**

Contemporary gospel was the hot music fare at **The Hamilton Live's** cool venue as the city sweltered in temperatures around 100 degrees on Sunday afternoon. Upwards of 300 came downtown to 14th and F NW to sway to the young band and its four singers called "**The Honorable Voices of Praise**" as it performed sets during one of the ongoing ...

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## Wall Street Journal Recognizes Washington Fine Properties

Jul 09, 2012 08:07 am | **The Scoop**

**Washington Fine Properties** (WFP), the leading luxury real estate brokerage in the Nation's Capitol Region has been recognized in the **Wall Street Journal's Real Estate Top 250**. WFP had more individual agents recognized for Sales Volume than any other firm in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Acknowledged as Individual Agents by Sales Volume ...



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[Washington Fine Properties](#)



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The **D.C. City Council** plans to vote Tuesday on a proposed amendment to the **D.C. Taxi Modernization Bill** that would make it illegal for [Uber](#) (the on-demand private car service launched late last year in D.C. and now in nine U.S. cities) to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form. On July 4, ...



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**Washington Fine Properties** (WFP), the leading luxury real estate brokerage in the Nation's Capitol Region has been recognized in the **Wall Street Journal's Real Estate Top 250**. WFP had more individual agents recognized for Sales Volume than any other firm in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Acknowledged as Individual Agents by Sales Volume ...



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**From:** [Craig Travis](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Internet Community will not allow corruption any more.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:47:37 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment. Now is your chance to show you support innovation, entrepreneurship and the revival of the US economy. It's about maintaining a system of meritocracy and a free market. It's about representing the true interests of your constituents. In 100 years, when we're all dusk and from then onwards what will your legacy be? Will your name be spoken of by your progeny with pride or will they avoid discussing you at all?

**From:** [Kyle Scriven](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Minimum Fare Must Be Stopped  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:45:24 PM

---

Hello All,

I do not currently live in DC, however I do live right on the border in downtown Silver Spring. I work downtown, and spend most of my leisure time within the DC borders. Over the time that I have lived in either Arlington, or Silver Spring I have faced innumerable problems receiving cab service that would willingly take me to my place of residence without complaint.

Uber has been a blessing since it's inception, allowing me to have a service to easily get home with no hassle or having to deal with being turned down by a variety of DC based cabs. I'd like to see the taxi situation in DC changed dramatically, however for the time being Uber is filling the need quite well. Enacting a resolution that serves to weaken their ability to add lower cost service, simply to remove competition from DC Taxi's is in poor faith, and does not represent the needs of you actual constituents or the people who spend much of their time of in the city, but reside elsewhere.

Thanks for your time.

--

Kyle Scriven

**From:** [S. Leigh Design](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amd.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:51:07 AM

---

Dear all,

As a native Washingtonian, small business starter/owner, expat who travels often to major cities, I find Uber a fantastic service.

But more to the point:

It is extremely offensive to pass such ham-fisted, unfair legislation so slanted in favor of incumbants at the expense of entrepreneurs.

Please vote with the reality of America's needs. Our future rests in the hands of innovators, start-ups and small businesses. I can't imagine anyone would want to have their name attached to something so obviously wrong. Please do the right thing.

I want to be proud of my country and my home town.

Thank you,  
Sharon Leigh  
An expat living in Europe

Firma S. Leigh Design



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sprint to our Website : "<http://sleighdesign.com/>"

**From:** [Steve Hurst](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:34:51 AM

---

Hi Mr. Wells,

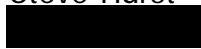
I just wanted to write and express my distaste for the so-called "Uber Amendment."

Uber is a pretty great service that fills a valuable niche. It should certainly be regulated, but I do not think it should be penalized with a minimum fare that puts it at a disadvantage to traditional taxis and prevents it from rolling-out its newest budget service.

I understand why cab drivers may be upset, since their companies often pass the costs of upgrading vehicles onto their employees, but Uber shouldn't be punished for offering a modern, customer-friendly ride. If cab companies had invested in their infrastructure and employees instead of gouging customers and cutting corners, they wouldn't be facing such stiff competition.

Though I'm a Ward 1 resident, and will be passing my views on to Mr. Graham, I wanted to express my views to you as a potential mayoral candidate and champion of more livable cities.

-----  
Steve Hurst



**From:** [Sarah \(Puritz\) Milsom](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:33:56 AM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I have been a DC resident for over a decade and this is one of only a handful of times I have felt so adamantly about an issue as to send an email underscoring my position. I ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. It stifles creativity and innovation, two historically defining characteristics of our economy that are key to our nations comparable advantage. Moreover it is a abhorrent example of how well entrenched special interests are pushing out small business; and at a time of such economic stress this policy is just incomprehensible.

Please do what is right - strike down the minimum fare language.

Sincerely,

Sarah Puritz Milsom

**From:** [Caitlin Duignan](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:57:00 AM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber user, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue improving transportation in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Duignan



**From:** [Caitlin Duignan](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:56:09 AM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber user, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue improving transportation in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Duignan





**From:** [Caitlin Duignan](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:54:26 AM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber user, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue improving transportation in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Duignan



**From:** [Rachel Manwill](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:43:53 AM

---

July 10, 2012

Office of Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 408  
Washington, DC 20004

Councilman Wells,

My name is Rachel Manwill and I live at 14th St. and K St. SE. I love my neighborhood, and I do not often feel unsafe, even as a young woman late at night. However, in recent months, I have been a witness to multiple police activities on the blocks surrounding my residence, related to incidents including a drug overdose and psychotic episode, a robbery at gunpoint, a murder, and multiple snatch-and-grab robberies. I have started to fear for my safety.

I work full time in the news business and I often work late hours, for little pay; in addition, I am in graduate school full time at George Washington University. My late hours would not be an issue during the weekdays when the Metro often closes before I'm heading for home, if cab drivers were willing to drive me to my neighborhood. I have often - nearly every single night that I try - been refused service to my Southeast home by cab drivers, and usually by more than one in a night. On one memorable occasion, I was refused service by no less than five cabs in 15 minutes. I was not intoxicated, and it was a Tuesday night. My solution? I called for an Uber. Not only did the driver pick me up at the address I requested, he walked me to my door and waited until I got inside.

My neighborhood is...transitional...at best. I have been verbally assaulted and physically threatened on my street. I have experience vandalism and harassment. But I have also experienced support and genuine caring. My neighborhood is not perfect but I love it. My neighbors are friendly and vigilant, and they do not accept a lack of citizenship by fellow residents. I do not want to move. If I had the financial ability to take an Uber home every night that I were working late at the rates that are currently proposed, I would be bankrupt. For now, I roll the dice when my bank account won't allow it and pray that a cab will eventually agree to take me home or that if I have to walk or bike share or Metro, I won't be sexually assaulted or robbed in the process.

This Uber amendment does not protect the cab drivers of Washington, DC; it cripples those of us that rely on the service for safe and reliable transportation. It allows the cab system to continue a pattern of illegal and disreputable behavior with zero competitive reason to change, all while being guarded by the DC Council. I personally do not care about town cars or Escalades or white glove service; I care about my personal safety. And if the cab drivers of this city continue to refuse service to an area they do not like, the problem is not Uber and the solution is not putting restrictions on a legitimate business. The solution is to fix a broken system and one way to do that is to force the cab drivers to shape up their service and become a competitive and reliable transportation source that

people can depend on. If I could put my faith that I would be able to take a cab where and when I needed to without being forced to get out five blocks before my requested stop (which, yes, has happened), I would happily patronize the city's cab companies and cars.

Councilman Wells, I implore you to strike down this absurd amendment setting the minimum fare for Uber at five times the rate of cabs. Is my personal safety - is *anyone's* - of such little consequence that you're willing to sacrifice political fairness and fair market competition to remain under the influence of DC's cab drivers? This amendment is not the answer.

Sincerely,

Rachel Manwill

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** THE UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:27:40 PM

---

Hello,

I am a DC resident and voter. I come from a family that has been in this city for a long time. I live in Ward 5 with my husband, in the home that we own. We're in our 30's and always make conscious decisions about the products we consume, often looking specifically for DC business. We have seen some great changes to this city in recent years. There has been a vast improvement in services and a sharp increase in the variety and quality of amenities. We love this city, but it can and should still be better. I am writing to express my support for the Uber service. I want more competition and more options for services. I urge you to vote against the amendment that would abort Uber's ability to compete in DC, the amendment that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices to viable levels.

Sincerely,

Derek Jarvis Hewlett

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20017

**From:** [Gary Rahl](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:02:58 PM

---

Councilmember Brown,

As a 16-year DC resident, I am writing to urge you to vote against the amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would set a price floor for transportation services other than taxis. This amendment, sometimes referred to as the Uber Amendment, is a bad idea for at least two reasons:

-- first, it prevents a legitimate business that uses technology in an innovative way from serving DC residents and competing with a taxi service that currently serves citizens very poorly. In the absence of competition, there is no force on the horizon that will improve this taxi service in the city - regulation alone certainly hasn't.

- second, at a time when the DC Council's reputation has already been tarnished by multiple ethical and criminal violations, passage of this amendment will further communicate to DC citizens that the Council is in the grip of narrow, special interests.

Thanks for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,  
Gary Rahl



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert Zuver](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:11 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the so-called Uber Amendment that would fix prices for car services at an artificially high rate in order to harm competition with DC's corrupt, mismanaged, and subpar taxicab system. There simply is no pro-citizen justification for this measure; all it does is take more money out of DC residents' pockets and reduce incentives for the taxicab commission to clean up its act.

No council member who supports such a measure is worthy of the public trust. I hope that you will choose the interests of DC's residents over those of its corrupt business interests by voting no on this measure.

Best Regards,  
Bob Zuver  
DC Resident and Taxpayer

**From:** [Robert Zuver](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:33 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the so-called Uber Amendment that would fix prices for car services at an artificially high rate in order to harm competition with DC's corrupt, mismanaged, and subpar taxicab system. There simply is no pro-citizen justification for this measure; all it does is take more money out of DC residents' pockets and reduce incentives for the taxicab commission to clean up its act.

No council member who supports such a measure is worthy of the public trust. I hope that you will choose the interests of DC's residents over those of its corrupt business interests by voting no on this measure.

Best Regards,  
Bob Zuver  
Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Nicholas Abraham](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:53 PM

---

I would urge you to please vote against the Uber Amendment. Unfair protections for one group are an unreasonable hurdle for others. Equal treatment under the law is all we would ask.

Thank you for considering the voices of your residents.

Sincerely,

Nick Abraham





**From:** [Nicholas Abraham](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:00 PM

---

As a resident of Ward 6, I would urge you to vote against the Uber Amendment. Unfair protections for one group are an unreasonable hurdle for others. Equal treatment under the law is all we would ask.

Thank you for considering the voices of your residents.

Sincerely,

Nick Abraham

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [Gary Rahl](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:05:26 PM

---

Councilmember Catania,

As a 16-year DC resident, I am writing to urge you to vote against the amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would set a price floor for transportation services other than taxis. This amendment, sometimes referred to as the Uber Amendment, is a bad idea for at least two reasons:

-- first, it prevents a legitimate business that uses technology in an innovative way from serving DC residents and competing with a taxi service that currently serves citizens very poorly. In the absence of competition, there is no force on the horizon that will improve this taxi service in the city - regulation alone certainly hasn't.

- second, at a time when the DC Council's reputation has already been tarnished by multiple ethical and criminal violations, passage of this amendment will further communicate to DC citizens that the Council is in the grip of narrow, special interests.

Thanks for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,  
Gary Rahl



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ashleigh Whelan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment AKA The DC City Council Infringing on Private Business and My Safety  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:14:36 PM

---

Dear Members of the DC City Council,

I find it outrageous that instead of tackling actual problems within the District, you all are set to vote against a well-functioning, reliable and safe private business in favor of protecting an interest group that serves no one but itself, despite it being a service that the public needs. Ensuring that Uber "does not directly compete with or undercut taxicab service" is a farce, a joke, a ridiculous endeavor to keep DC's taxi system in a poorer state than I have seen in many third world countries. Not to mention anything of the services provided in New York or Boston.

Taxi service in DC is appalling. Dirty cabs, cab drivers who refuse service and/or change for payment of services rendered, price gouging and even some reports of physical assaults. That's the picture the nation's capital wants its visitors and residents to receive?

I strongly oppose these measures and respectfully request that you stand up for the citizens that you all ostensibly serve. As a young woman, knowing that I will be able to have a ride home on demand in a safe, efficient and clean manner makes this city, which still has a long way to go in terms of public safety (but that's a story for another time), feel more like home.

Do the right thing. Stand up for private enterprise. Allow DC residents and visitors to have a choice in their transportation -- perhaps that the taxi commission feels this threatened should be a sign...when given an alternative, consumers flock to the best option. Instead of stifling business, consider reforming and fixing what's broken.

Sincerely,  
Ashleigh Whelan

--

Ashleigh Whelan, MPA

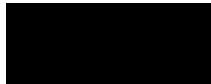


**From:** [Sam Huxley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber amendment is unfair  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:54 PM

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As an active city voter and an Uber customer, I was distressed when I read that the City Council is considering an amendment to restrict Uber's pricing. There are many locations in the city where radio dispatched cabs are dirty, unreliable, and refuse to take me to areas where they don't want to go, all of which Uber solves. I have known for some time the grip that the taxi industry has on city government, and this amendment would seem to be born of that. The fact that it comes in response to lower pricing for clean, hybrid vehicles is galling - please vote against this amendment, and keep our cabs competitive. Thanks,

Sam Huxley  
Founder  
Back to the Lab Consulting LLC

 (m)  
(w)

**From:** [Patrick Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:38 PM

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Hi David

I know that we have occasionally disagreed during your service on the Council, but I am hugely troubled by the rumor that there will be an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices or to offer a low cost service in any form.

This is outrageous. I am frequently embarrassed that our taxi service here in the City is so far behind the international standard. I travel frequently for work and I find it ridiculous that visitors in Indonesia have a more high tech taxi fleet than the Nation's capital. I can pay for a new modern taxi ride in Marrakesh but not in North West DC? How could this be allowed to happen?

I know the Taxi owners have spent a lot of money electing this Mayor and many on the council but I hope you will stand up for our city's reputation and defend the free market that benefits all citizens.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

All the best,

Patrick Wilson

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

PS I am the same Patrick Wilson you knew in High School back in Kansas City.

---

W Patrick Wilson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jeff Kavanaugh](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:16:20 PM

---

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. Please be in favor of innovation, not incumbents. Many people are watching this vote. Please do the right thing.

This is important to me, and I will be commenting on your response in a public forum, as will many thousands of others.

Thank you.

Jeff Kavanaugh



**From:** [Jeff Kavanaugh](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:15:04 PM

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Jeff Kavanaugh



**From:** [Jeff Kavanaugh](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Amendment vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:12:40 PM

---

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Thank you.

Jeff Kavanaugh





**From:** [Chris Tierney](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber amendment,  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:03:58 AM

---

To whom it may concern,

The minimum fare language in the Uber amendment is harmful to small businesses and hurts competition. Business is changing, and many of the old ways of doing things are long gone. Beeper companies tried to change this when cell phone companies showed up on the horizon. Traditional publishers are doing it now in the face of ebooks.

You can't stop progress, do not lose this battle because of shortsightedness.

Yes, I read Tim Ferriss' blog. I assume you have had enough links sent to you to not bother with it. The fact remains that he has a significant impact on the social scene. Please to the right thing.

-Chris

The chase is better than the catch

-Scooter

**From:** [Josh Eflin](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Ammendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:03:22 PM

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Dear Council Member,

My name Is Josh Eflin. I was writing to ask you to please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. As a resident of the DC Metropolitan area for 22 years of my life, I believe that the taxi industry deserves some healthy competition. Uber is an innovative company that provides a quality product. Are you for innovation, or do you embrace the status quo? Don't destroy a company, especially in this economy.

Thank you

**Josh Eflin**

**From:** [MIRANDA DE PENCIER](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:32:28 AM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

My name is Miranda de Pencier. I'm a feature film producer (BEGINNERS, the upcoming THANKS FOR SHARING starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Mark Ruffalo). My boyfriend works at the State Department and we live in Capitol Hill. We travel A LOT - and have a lot of friends in this city who travel.

Not since UBER have I been a happy traveler.

Compared with New York and Los Angeles taxi companies which are fast, efficient, polite, and reliable - I have found DC taxi companies at times to be unreliable and inefficient. HOWEVER - I was turned onto Uber earlier this year and my whole transportation experience has changed. Uber is reliable, easy, quick - and now they are even going to be helping our planet with a hybrid fleet!

I have no connection to the transportation industry. I have no connection to Uber other than as a client. I have never written a Council Member before. BUT - as someone who uses both taxis and Uber a lot - I think it is desperately important to keep the Uber option alive. If you sign the Uber amendment today - you are cutting off a fantastic service in this city (forcing Uber to charge 5x the rate is cutting out a fair and just and great option).

All my best, Miranda

Miranda de Pencier  
Northwood Productions

**From:** [MIRANDA DE PENCIER](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Uber Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:29:50 AM

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Dear Mr. Brown, My name is Miranda de Pencier. I'm a feature film producer (BEGINNERS, the upcoming THANKS FOR SHARING starring Gwyneth Paltrow and Mark Ruffalo). My boyfriend works at the State Department and we live in Capitol Hill. We travel A LOT - and have a lot of friends in this city who travel.

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All my best, Miranda

Miranda de Pencier  
Northwood Productions

**From:** [Michelle Feinberg](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** This is America  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:54:33 PM

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If Uber is too competitive against the taxis, then the taxis need to change their business model. You can't stop a company from giving better prices for high quality services to consumers. America was built on small government, and this is too far. Businesses thrive by differentiating themselves from the market and offering good services at affordable rates. If other businesses can't keep up, that is their problem. DC patrons pay out the ass for the cost of living; expensive beers, high covers, etc. We deserve to be able to get a reliable taxi cab service at a fair price. Yellow top and red top are unreliable and a disgrace of a company. There is no reason a company like uber cab shouldn't be number 1. And you are stopping them from doing that.

**From:** [Michelle Feinberg](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** This is American  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:43 PM

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If Uber is too competitive against the taxis, then the taxis need to change their business model. You can't stop a company from giving better prices for high quality services to consumers. America was built on small government, and this is too far. Businesses thrive by differentiating themselves from the market and offering good services at affordable rates. If other businesses can't keep up, that is their problem.

DC patrons pay out the ass for the cost of living; expensive tiny apartments, expensive beers, high covers, etc. We deserve to be able to get a reliable taxi cab service at a fair price. Yellow top and red top and the like are unreliable and a disgrace of a company. They don't give ETA's, they show up hours after you call them, and on dozens of occasions, they haven't even showed up. There is no reason a company like uber cab shouldn't be number one, and you are stopping them from doing that because of some bureaucratic bullshit. America was built on freedom. How DARE you tell a company they can't lower their rates. That is INSANE.

**From:** [Ryan](#)  
**Subject:** This is unfair , please Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:29:23 AM

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**This is unfair , please Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**



[www.ryansaplan.com](http://www.ryansaplan.com)  
[www.ryansaplan.tumblr.com](http://www.ryansaplan.tumblr.com)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ron Slavick](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Thoughts...  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:48:59 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My family and I are moving to New Zealand and renouncing our US citizenship.  
Why?

It is simple, the short sightedness of our elected officials in their effort to protect the status quo at the sacrifice of innovation.

Might I caution you that when your votes negatively effect innovation such as the case with Uber, innovators relocate to places where they CAN make a difference.

Sincerely,  
Ron Slavick



**From:** [Tad K](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:04:32 PM

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Just think a Million readers all getting ready to email and call you  
Perhaps alternatives are a good thing

I support alternatives that provide excellent service

Tad Kelson

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **The Blog of Author Tim Ferriss** <[noreply@4hourworkweek.com](mailto:noreply@4hourworkweek.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 10:54 AM  
**Subject:** Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**To:** [REDACTED]

## Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups



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### [The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups](#)

Posted: 10 Jul 2012 01:15 AM PDT



**This man hates you and your start-up.**

Hi All,

This short post is more like a personal letter, because I just came across something that made me very angry. Namely, a tweet from my bud, Kevin Rose:

Wow, a business (Uber) is prevented from lowering its prices.. wait..  
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<http://tcrn.ch/NfYOT3>

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But sometimes the corrupt (often with [a track record](#) ) try to stifle the little guys. Incumbents don't like to compete. They enjoy their defacto monopolies, are accustomed to bilking customers at will, and don't want to change things.

Pardon my Long Island French, but here's how I feel: Fuck those guys.

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[The last time I implored you to spend a few minutes](#) to change laws, we helped successfully ban the distribution and sale of shark fins in Washington and California, the latter being the largest importer of shark fins in the United States.

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...

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[@marycheh](#)

Michael Brown, at-large, [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[@cmmichaelabrown](#)

Jim Graham, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@jimgrahamward1](#)

Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@jackevansward2](#)

Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@murielbowser](#)

Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [kenyanmcduffie](#)

Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@tommywells](#)

Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@cmyma](#)

Marion Barry, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@marionbarryjr](#)

David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@cataniapress](#)

Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED]  
[@vincentorangedc](#)

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**From:** [Tal Moore](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:22:59 PM

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Councilperson:

This is infuriating news. Where do you stand on this?

Tal

----- Forwarded message -----

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**Date:** Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 10:54 AM  
**Subject:** Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**To:** [REDACTED]

## Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups



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Posted: 10 Jul 2012 01:15 AM PDT



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**From:** [Aaron Hastings](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:50:05 AM

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This makes me want to vomit. I didn't think such blatant crony capitalism was still in effect, given everything going on in the economy already. How about you let innovation run its course?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

- Aaron

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **The Blog of Author Tim Ferriss** <[noreply@4hourworkweek.com](mailto:noreply@4hourworkweek.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 7:53 AM  
**Subject:** Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups  
**To:** [REDACTED]

Tim Ferriss - The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups



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what? We live in America, right?  
<http://tcrn.ch/NfYOT3>

In full disclosure, I've been an advisor to [Uber](#) from the beginning. They're amazing. I work with [20+ start-ups](#) because because I enjoy helping entrepreneurs who want to change the world. Small-business founders are the value creators of our economy. Period, end of story.

But sometimes the corrupt (often with [a track record](#)) try to stifle the little guys. Incumbents don't like to compete. They enjoy their defacto monopolies, are accustomed to bilking customers at will, and don't want to change things.

Pardon my Long Island French, but here's how I feel: Fuck those guys.

Protecting the status quo doesn't impress me. In fact, it really pisses me off.

[The last time I implored you to spend a few minutes](#) to change laws, we helped successfully ban the distribution and sale of shark fins in Washington and California, the latter being the largest importer of shark fins in the United States.

YOUR TINY ACTIONS, PUT TOGETHER, CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS.

Below is a snapshot of the Uber situation from [the TechCrunch article](#), and I have a little ask at the end. It'll get you some good karma:

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high-quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high – but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday [today!], the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

...

### **Take Action**

THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT [TODAY]!

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. **Call/write as many of them as possible!**

Phil Mendelson (Chairman), [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Mary Cheh, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[@marycheh](#)

Michael Brown, at-large, [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[@cmmichaelabrown](#)

Jim Graham, Ward 1, [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[@jimgrahamward1](#)

Jack Evans, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED]

[@jackevansward2](#)

Muriel Bowser, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED]

[@murielbowser](#)

Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED]

[kenyanmcduffie](#)

Tommy Wells, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED]

[@tommywells](#)

Yvette Alexander, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED]

[@cmyma](#)

Marion Barry, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED]

[@marionbarryjr](#)

David Catania, at-large, (202) [REDACTED]

[@cataniapress](#)

Vincent Orange, at-large, (202) [REDACTED]

[@vincentorangedc](#)

Those of you who read this blog know that I never write posts like this.

But I take this attack on Uber as a DC government-condoned attack on start-ups. I view it as an entrenched middle finger from incumbents who aren't willing to improve their product or lower prices. Instead, they resort to underhanded legal means to handicap innovation. It makes my blood boil.

So, here's what I'm going to do.

**1) I'm going to e-mail every one of the above people today and tell them to read this post. E-mail helps, but phone is better...**

2) Personally, I'm going to call every one of them today and politely but firmly ask them to "strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment." I will have my assistants do the same. This shouldn't take more than 20 minutes or so, but I won't ask that of you...

3) I'm going to ask you all — the 1,000,000+ unique readers of this blog — to call as many of the above as possible. Let's aim for the first four. But there's more... Politely but firmly, get the name of the person you're speaking with, tell them you'd like them to "strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment" and then **ask them if they're in favor of innovation or incumbents**. Last, indicate that you'll be putting their responses in the comments below.

—

This DC attack could set a horrible precedent for start-ups trying to improve any space with large incumbents. If you have a few minutes, please make one phone call. It will earn you positive karma... and the knowledge that you didn't stand still and watch Goliath snuff out David with his thumb. There's something real to be said for that.

Sorry for the rant, but this one is legitimate. To my mind, it cannot go unanswered.

**Please spread the call to action far and wide. This is time-sensitive and needs to happen ASAP today.**



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You are subscribed to email updates from [The Blog of Author Tim Ferriss](#) Email delivery powered by Google  
To stop receiving these emails, you may [unsubscribe now](#).  
Google Inc., 20 West Kinzie, Chicago IL USA 60610

**From:** [Hillary Crittendon](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Today's "Uber" vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:12:35 AM

---

Phil, Mary and Michael,

I hope this note finds you well. As you embark on a decision this morning, I just thought I'd offer my point of view. In an economy that is contracting in many ways, I believe it is our civic duty to protect those who are stimulating it and working (in their own small way) to improve our overall economic situation. Small businesses are creating jobs. Before putting the "axe on Uber" by making it too expensive for many to afford, please keep in mind that the co-founders and employees of Uber are creating new business and new jobs in a fragile economic environment. Not to mention the fact that they are offering rides in a city where it is quite difficult to find a taxi!

Many thanks,  
Hillary Crittendon

**From:** [william handy](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tommy Wells, please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:21:20 AM

---

Dear Tommy Wells,

Please vote against enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. By not voting against the amendment you are handicapping a reliable, high-quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. Uber is a small company that is trying to improve local transportation in this country because taxi companies are not innovating or improving service.

**It is hard for me to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high – but the goal is essentially to protect a taxi industry that has significant experience in influencing local politicians.**

So please, strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in today's vote!

Thank you for your time,

William Handy

**From:** [Nick Owens](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tommy, please help stop this anti-uber regime...  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:58 PM

---

Tommy,

I know you as a leader on the side of the consumer. As a district resident, I find Uber service and taxis to be reliable. I use taxis often and car services. I like a choice. Consumers enjoy choices. The market works and we should appreciate that in the nation's capital that would matter. Let's not pick winners and losers and legislate minimum prices. Goodness. What comes with this? Thank you for your consideration. I know thousands of the city residents and council's constituents support stopping this Anti-Uber regime. Uber is adding value to your constituents and our city.

Best regards,  
Nick

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

**From:** [Caleb Parker](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tomorrow's vote | Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:08:37 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I am a resident in SW DC, and customer of Uber. I also take taxi cabs sometimes, and the DC metro often. I find it shocking that a government would pass a law prohibiting a business from offering a service to consumers at rates that are highly competitive. In a free market economy, consumers should decide whether the business model can exist. If one company develops technology to improve efficiency and profit by offering a similar, or in this case, better service, at a competitive or low price, then consumers should be given the opportunity to patronize that company.

Instead of voting to fix prices and cause voters to pay more for transportation, I would think City Council would encourage the taxi cab industry to adopt similar technology and compete on better service and efficiency.

Thank you for your time.

**Caleb Parker**, CEO

**Executive Space Solutions**

**Office:** (202) [REDACTED]

**Mobile:** (202) [REDACTED]

**(t)** @caleb\_parker

[www.executivespacesolutions.com](http://www.executivespacesolutions.com)

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**From:** [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:54:14 AM

---

**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

– lots of calls in the past few minutes.

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

---

**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

Yep, lots of emails too. I forwarded Mary Cheh's email to a few. . .what is our stance on this?

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

More on Uber:

[http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc\\_council\\_moves\\_closer\\_to\\_making\\_u.php](http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc_council_moves_closer_to_making_u.php)

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)

**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12 PM

**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)

**Subject:** Tons of calls coming in on this

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



**From:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:35:19 AM

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[REDACTED] – lots of calls in the past few minutes.

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

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*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

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Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)





---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)

**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12 PM

**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)

**Subject:** Tons of calls coming in on this

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



**From:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:17:13 AM

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Yep, lots of emails too. I forwarded Mary Cheh's email to a few. . .what is our stance on this?

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21 PM  
**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this

More on Uber:

[http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc\\_council\\_moves\\_closer\\_to\\_making\\_u.php](http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc_council_moves_closer_to_making_u.php)

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Tons of calls coming in on this

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



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**From:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tons of calls coming in on this  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:16 PM

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More on Uber:

[http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc\\_council\\_moves\\_closer\\_to\\_making\\_u.php](http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc_council_moves_closer_to_making_u.php)

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12 PM  
**To:** Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Tons of calls coming in on this

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



**From:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tons of calls coming in on this  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:51 PM

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<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans

p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)





**From:** [Scott Miller](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tuesday's Vote on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:40:51 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

Please strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment!

We residents in DC need an alternative to taxicabs. I ride cabs every day but am increasingly disappointed with the condition and cleanliness of the cabs - many are unsafe and extremely dirty. Uber should be allowed to operate at competitive fares and give us a much needed alternative.

Thank you,

Scott Miller



**From:** [Scott Miller](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tuesday's Vote on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:36:44 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Please strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment!

We residents in DC need an alternative to taxicabs. I ride cabs every day but am increasingly disappointed with the condition and cleanliness of the cabs - many are unsafe and extremely dirty. Uber should be allowed to operate at competitive fares and give us a much needed alternative.

Thank you,

Scott Miller



**From:** [Scott Miller](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Tuesday's Vote on Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:30:24 PM

---

Mr. Brown,

Please strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment!

We residents in DC need an alternative to taxicabs. I ride cabs every day but am increasingly disappointed with the condition and cleanliness of the cabs- many are unsafe and extremely dirty. Uber should be allowed to operate at competitive fares and give us a much needed alternative.

Thank you,

Scott Miller



**From:** [william Dismer](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:35:58 PM

---

Mr. Catania, please don't allow the taxi lobby to stymie an affordable approach to transportation in Washington D.C. Thanks, W.B. Dismer, LCSW

**From:** [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brabham, Amorde \(Council\)](#); [Loy, Sarina \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Rahim, Windy \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:22:56 PM

---

[REDACTED] Good day today team. It was a lot of work but worth it

---

**From:** Huff, Andrew (Council)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:51 PM  
**To:** Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber

I am replying to every Tweet as well, which has Uber on it.

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



---

**From:** Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber


[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

This is now posted on Uber's website:

**Update 2:** Council members Jack Evans (Ward 2) and Tommy Wells (Ward 6) have introduced a new version of the Uber Amendment that STRIKES DOWN the minimum fare language. Call/tweet/write your council member NOW to urge them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.



*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*



**From:** [Liz Shrum](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:05:47 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

As a DC resident in ward 6 I am writing to you to ask that you do not support any proposal that would over-regulate and stifle Uber car service.

As a DC resident and young professional on a tight budget I have found Uber to be an amazing service that helps me not only get around the city safely, efficiently and cost effectively but it also is providing so many members of the community with new employment and is fostering a blossoming small business in our great city. It also makes our city a better place to live and provides this service to everyone, not just the wealthy.

I came to DC believing in the American Dream and trying to make this country a better place. I think part of the American dream is innovation, progress and the ability to start a small business or come up with a great idea and run with it and see it flourish. Helping fellow Americans, providing great jobs and supporting our economy. For government to step in the way of that is going against what this country stands for.

Is change hard, yes it is, and will people fight it, of course. But does that mean a great idea should be stopped because a small minority of individuals or special interests don't like change, NO!

There is so much talk about making DC an innovative and progressive city. Well prove those words are not hollow and support a growing business that only makes this city better and that its residents want.

The last thing I will say is that this business is going to spread across the country like wildfire and very soon be in every major city, do we want to be a leader, or antiquated? This only makes us more attractive to those we want to attract to our city.

Thank you kindly!

Liz Jennings Shrum

**From:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brabham, Amorde \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Loy, Sarina \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Rahim, Windy \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:50:47 PM

---

I am replying to every Tweet as well, which has Uber on it.

Andrew Huff | Director of Communications | Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans  
p: [REDACTED] | f: [REDACTED] | [www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



---

**From:** Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

This is now posted on Uber's website:

**Update 2:** Council members Jack Evans (Ward 2) and Tommy Wells (Ward 6) have introduced a new version of the Uber Amendment that **STRIKES DOWN** the minimum fare language. Call/tweet/write your council member **NOW** to urge them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment **WITHOUT** the minimum fare language.

[REDACTED]



*Sherri Kimbel*

*Director of Constituent Services*

*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*

*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*

*Washington DC 20004*



**From:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Brabham, Amorde \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Loy, Sarina \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Rahim, Windy \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:50:14 PM

---

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

This is now posted on Uber's website:

**Update 2:** Council members Jack Evans (Ward 2) and Tommy Wells (Ward 6) have introduced a new version of the Uber Amendment that STRIKES DOWN the minimum fare language. Call/tweet/write your council member NOW to urge them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.

[REDACTED]

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mike Pozmantier](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:26:52 PM

---

At-large City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern over amendments before the Council relating to Uber. Specifically, I would like to convey my support for the Amendment being presented by Councilman Evans that requires NO minimum for Uber.

As a downtown resident, I rely on Metro, cabs, Uber and my feet to get around town. The cab situation in DC is appalling compared to other major cities, like New York. Most of this can be attributed to the corrupt relationship between the cab lobby and our city officials that has existed over the years. We need options and Uber provides an outstanding one, please let the market work.

Government regulation has its place, but this is not one of them. City Council action fixing the cabs in DC is warranted, as opposed to action that limits competition and further cements the cab industry's monopoly in DC.

I urge you to support Councilman Evans' Amendment that would require NO minimum for Uber. Please look out for the interests of your constituents over the concerns of the cab lobby, which only cares about its profits over the good of DC residents.

Regards,

Michael Pozmantier



**From:** [Lee Toomey](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:13:18 PM

---

I ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment and ask if you are in favor of innovation or incumbents. I shall publish your response, if any, online.

Regards,

Lee

**From:** [Lee Toomey](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:12:46 PM

---

I ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment and ask if you are in favor of innovation or incumbents. I shall publish your response, if any, online.

Regards,

Lee

**From:** [Lee Toomey](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:12:01 PM

---

I ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment and ask if you are in favor of innovation or incumbents. I shall publish your response, if any, online.

Regards,

Lee

**From:** [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Brabham, Amorde \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Loy, Sarina \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Rahim, Windy \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:02:24 PM

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**From:** Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26 AM  
**To:** Huff, Andrew (Council); Brabham, Amorde (Council); Grant, Schannette (COUNCIL); Kimbel, Sherri (COUNCIL); Loy, Sarina (COUNCIL); Rahim, Windy (COUNCIL); Stogner, Kevin (Council); Werner, Ruth (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

This is now posted on Uber's website:


**Update 2:** Council members Jack Evans (Ward 2) and Tommy Wells (Ward 6) have introduced a new version of the Uber Amendment that STRIKES DOWN the minimum fare language. Call/tweet/write your council member NOW to urge them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

**From:** [Colleen Phalen](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:39:07 PM

---

I'm writing to ask you to please support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:13 PM, Colleen Phalen <> wrote:

I'm writing to plead that you do not pass the Uber restrictive law

The DC City Council informed Uber that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price.

It's so hard to believe that you would put such restrictions in place. It's your job to fight for the citizens of this city, not for a special interest group of cab drivers. Every other majorcity in America has worked with Uber and not enacted such arcane and UnAmerican laws.

Colleen Phalen



Washington, DC



**From:** [JJ Sutherland](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:23:06 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I live in your district at 14th and A st. NE. I find getting taxi service here almost impossible. There have often been cases where cabs simply never show up, leaving guests, or myself stranded. The taxi service in this city is unreliable, rude, inefficient, with dirty cars and worse drivers. I think it is criminal that when a new company comes up with a better idea they are punished by entrenched interests who only think about their own pocketbook, rather than the needs of the people of the city. I think the competition from a disruptive new business model like Uber can only be good for the District and its residents. When my wife is out with friends at the new places on H street I don't have to worry about her not being able to get a cab home, we simply use Uber. Making it impossible for this service to operate in the District serves only those who have let the quality, convenience, reliability, and politeness of their business languish because they have a monopoly.

I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment, and let competition do what it is supposed to do, bring people better services.

Jeff Sutherland

Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Rory Cameron](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:06:48 PM

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Congrats that you trashed the amendment that would have hurt Uber... I cannot believe politicians did the right thing and did not listen to a powerful lobby like taxi world! WAY TO GO.. dont let a market based enterprise like UBER be unable to COMPETE. That is ANTI-AMERICAN

**From:** [Ryan Singh](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:05:26 PM

---

I am writing to ask that you support Councilmember Evan's amendemnt of no minimum for Uber in the District.

Thank you,

Ryan Singh

Washington DC 20011

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Tue, 10 Jul 2012 14:25:16 -0400  
**Subject:** RE: UBER

[REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

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**From:** Ryan Singh [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Barry, Marion (COUNCIL); Graham, Jim (COUNCIL); Evans, Jack (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council); Alexander, Yvette (COUNCIL); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** UBER

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you today in response to an email that I received from UBER regarding the proposed UBER Amendment to the Taxi Modernization bill. I would like to express my opposition to the Council's proposed amendment that would prevent UBER from lowering it's prices or offering a low cost service - and to set the fare at a level higher than a taxi's minimum fare.

From UBER:

"that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**"

I do not believe that stifling competition does any good for the citizens of DC - especially when you consider the state of DC's taxis - inefficient, never on time, inflated prices, rude drivers, and on occasion, dirty cabs - I believe that competition is exactly what is needed. I have had several bad experiences with DC taxis in the last year alone - between cabs not showing up for previously called in reservations, and then being told that the cab company doesn't make reservations, prices for the same travel route differing not just on different days, but on the same day within a span of an hour or two, rude drivers, and over the last couple of years, I have noticed that although the council sets an end date for the fuel surcharge, there are taxi drivers out there that never stop charging it and it just becomes part of the normal fare.

When I moved to Columbia Heights, it would cost about \$9-10 to take a cab from 17th & R Streets NW to Taylor Street NW - now it's closer to \$15, and that's if I get a driver who takes the faster, least congested route. And on that point, I have had to tell drivers to stay off the congested areas during rush hour - because they immediately begin taking the roads with the heaviest traffic to rack up the meter. The last time I took a cab up, the fare came to \$21 - which is outrageous!

UBER provides an alternative to DC taxis and competition is exactly what is needed. So once again, I would like to express my opposition to this proposed amendment and I hope that you will vote against it.

Thank you.

Ryan Singh

[REDACTED]

Washington DC 20011.

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:55:43 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

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From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:52 PM  
To: Jim Graham  
Cc: Guilherme A. M. Almeida; Fran Albers  
Subject: Re: uber

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for the update. I am glad to hear this will be debated publicly and separately.

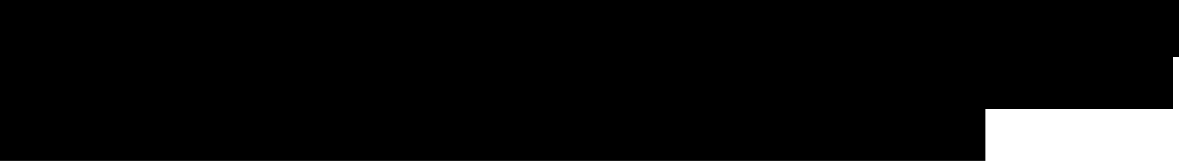
Kind regards, Ed Johns

Edward Johns  
[REDACTED]

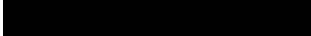
---



From: Jim Graham <[REDACTED]>  
To: Jim Graham <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:51 AM  
Subject: uber


Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.



Bests, Jim

*I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address:* 

*Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004.*   (fax).

*Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number:*  1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.

*Website:* [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)

**From:** [Jacob Wolman](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:50:47 PM

---

Mr. Brown, Mr. Catania, and Mr. Orange:

I'm a Ward 2 resident and just wanted let you know that I oppose any legislation that would restrict any company's ability to offer DC consumers lower prices on transportation. I was very concerned about the original language in the amendment that would have restrained Uber from offering lower prices to its customers. I hope you will support Councilmen Wells and Evans's amendment striking the minimum fare language, allowing Uber to offer lower prices to DC residents (and visitors).

Best,  
Jacob Wolman

  
Washington DC 20001

**From:** [grace teng](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:36:14 PM

---

Hi David,

I am recent new resident of Washington DC and a big fan of Uber.

Pls strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Why is it illegal for Uber to provide better prices for the citizens?

Isn't it a good thing to have a business come up with the concept of an all-hybrid fleet at a lower cost?

I tried using the Yellow Cab to order cabs online since I work in Shaw but the service is unreliable.

Pls vote responsibly for the people living in DC.

Best,  
Grace



**From:** [grace teng](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:34:21 PM

---

Hi Michael,

I am recent new resident of Washington DC and a big fan of Uber.

Pls strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Why is it illegal for Uber to provide better prices for the citizens?

Isn't it a good thing to have a business come up with the concept of an all-hybrid fleet at a lower cost?

I tried using the Yellow Cab to order cabs online since I work in Shaw but the service is unreliable.

Pls vote responsibly for the people living in DC.

Best,  
Grace

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Vadim Schick](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:15:26 PM

---

Thank you!

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

From: Vadim Schick [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:57 AM  
To: Jim Graham  
Cc: Jim Graham  
Subject: Re: uber

Thank you, Jim!!

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to***

***communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address:*** [REDACTED]

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004.*** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ***(fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number:*** [REDACTED] ***1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website:*** [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Daniel Trapp](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:05:57 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

From: Daniel Trapp [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:58 AM  
To: Jim Graham  
Subject: Re: uber

Thanks - this is great news.  
Best regards,  
Dan

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

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***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

--

Daniel J. Trapp  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Mark Schamel](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:05:38 PM

---

Thank you!

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

**From:** Mark Schamel [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:58 AM  
**To:** Jim Graham  
**Subject:** Re: uber

That is leadership at its finest. Thank you.

Mark E. Schamel  
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice  
[REDACTED]

On Jul 10, 2012, at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this "bcc-approach" to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Seth Wainer](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:05:32 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

From: Seth Wainer [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:00 PM  
To: Jim Graham  
Subject: Re: uber

Thanks Councilman.

I certainly support all of your efforts to improve the quality of taxicab services through smart meters, credit card acceptance, and a medallion system.

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]



Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Joshua Dermott](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:04:11 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

**From:** Joshua Dermott [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:03 PM  
**To:** Jim Graham  
**Subject:** Re: uber

Thanks much for the prompt reply.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2012, at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Lauren Zelin](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03:56 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

---

From: Lauren Zelin [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:03 PM  
To: Jim Graham  
Subject: Re: uber

Thank you very much for listening to your constituents and letting me know the outcome!

Lauren

On Tue, Jul 10, 2012 at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

--

*Lauren (Cole) Zelin*

*Please note my new email address: [REDACTED]*

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Peter Muller](#)  
Subject: RE: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:03:48 PM

---

Thank you

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

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From: Peter Muller [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:15 PM  
To: Jim Graham  
Subject: Re: uber

Thanks very much Jim.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 10, 2012, at 11:51 AM, Jim Graham <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address: [REDACTED]***

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number: [REDACTED] 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website: [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)***

**From:** [Benjamin Freed](#)  
**To:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:59:00 PM

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Rob,

As a follow-up to Mary Cheh's shelving of her "Uber amendment" we're putting together a post on the massive email and phone call campaign Uber put together yesterday. Did CM Bowser's office get a large number of emails or phone calls about Uber yesterday?

Thanks,

Ben

--

Benjamin R. Freed  
Associate Editor, DCist.com  
c: (917) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | Twitter: [@brfreed](#)



**From:** [Stephen Whalen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:16:03 PM

---

I was informed of the Uber Amendment today and would hope that you don't hold back a fledgling company from succeeding in such a tough economy.

Thank you,  
Stephen

**From:** [Jason Croft](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:59:42 AM

---

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
Jason Croft

From: [Jim Graham](#)  
To: [Jim Graham](#)  
Subject: uber  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:56:04 AM

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Thanks for contacting me. Please excuse use of this “bcc-approach” to respond to your thoughtful email concerning the minimum fare for the Uber service. A number of Ward 1 residents have written me individual emails on this.

[REDACTED]

Bests, Jim

***I typically answer emails before 9 AM on weekdays. If you email me after that, it is likely that you will hear from me the next weekday. If there is a need to communicate prior to that, you may wish to call me. For most effective communication, please use my direct email address:*** [REDACTED]

***Jim Graham, Councilmember, Ward One, 1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #105, Washington, DC 20004.*** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ***(fax).***

***Chairman, Committee on Human Services (including alcohol regulation). Main Committee Number:*** [REDACTED] ***1350 Pa. Ave., NW, #116, Washington, DC 20004.***

***Website:*** [www.grahamwone.com](http://www.grahamwone.com)

**From:** [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Huff, Andrew \(Council\)](#); [Brabham, Amorde \(Council\)](#); [Grant, Schannette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Kimbel, Sherri \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Loy, Sarina \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Rahim, Windy \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#); [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26:12 AM

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This is now posted on Uber's website:

**Update 2:** Council members Jack Evans (Ward 2) and Tommy Wells (Ward 6) have introduced a new version of the Uber Amendment that STRIKES DOWN the minimum fare language. Call/tweet/write your council member NOW to urge them to support the Evans/Wells Uber Amendment WITHOUT the minimum fare language.

[REDACTED]

*Sherri Kimbel*  
*Director of Constituent Services*  
*Office Of COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS*  
*1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, #106*  
*Washington DC 20004*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Salem Hoffmann](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:53:54 AM

---

Dear Sir,

I'm writing today in regards to the "Uber amendment" section of the Taxi Modernization bill "District of Colombia Taxicab Commission Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2011".

While most of the proposed legislation is great, the "Uber Amendment" section is an underhanded attempt by the Taxi Commission to use the city council to force a start-up business out of service, because they fear competition. Allowing the Taxi Commission to control the city council like that would set a precedent that would allow any established business to use legislature to prevent innovation by smaller organizations that have a perfectly viable service just because the larger company fears competition.

This amendment is not just a direct attack on Uber, it's a DC government-condoned attack on all start ups. It is an entrenched middle finger from incumbents who aren't willing to improve their product or lower their prices. Instead, they resort to underhanded legal means to handicap innovation.

I respectfully request that you strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment. Don't allow the taxi commission to control city council.

Respectfully,

Robert Hoffmann

<http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/>  
<http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/09/dc-city-councils-uber-amendment-would-force-sedans-to-charge-5x-taxi-prices-and-kill-uberx/>

**From:** [Salem Hoffmann](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:52:50 AM

---

Dear Sir,

I'm writing today in regards to the "Uber amendment" section of the Taxi Modernization bill "District of Colombia Taxicab Commission Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2011".

While most of the proposed legislation is great, the "Uber Amendment" section is an underhanded attempt by the Taxi Commission to use the city council to force a start-up business out of service, because they fear competition. Allowing the Taxi Commission to control the city council like that would set a precedent that would allow any established business to use legislature to prevent innovation by smaller organizations that have a perfectly viable service just because the larger company fears competition.

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I respectfully request that you strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment. Don't allow the taxi commission to control city council.

Respectfully,

Robert Hoffmann

<http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/>  
<http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/09/dc-city-councils-uber-amendment-would-force-sedans-to-charge-5x-taxi-prices-and-kill-uberx/>

**From:** [Heather Choi](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:34:43 AM

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Mr. Brown

I am a citizen in Ward 2. I urge you not to force Uber to raise its prices simply to appease the taxi industry. Uber provides a valuable and (currently) affordable service. I understand that Councilman Jack Evans is offering an amendment that would maintain Uber's current price structure. Please support this amendment.

Regards,  
Heather Choi

Heather Souder Choi  


**From:** [Meredith Cain](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:05:58 AM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

I beg you to please strike down the [Uber](#) amendment. Uber is a reliable and safe alternative to taxis in DC. I have had uncomfortable and unreliable service in DC cabs for years, and am so pleased to have Uber as an alternative. It is already more expensive than a cab, which is unfortunate. But to price it out of people's realm of possibility is completely unfair.

I'm tired of cabbies who don't know where they are going. Who refuse to take me to my home (near H St). Who show up more than 30 minutes late to an early am pickup (4:30) to the airport. Whose dispatchers won't answer the phone. Who don't honor reservations. Who don't pick you up when called. Honestly, cabs in DC are completely abysmal. Not to mention filthy, and sketchy. I've had too many acquaintances claim assault, etc. And with the recent hike in fares, they merely are continuing the same level of service as before. Most won't take a credit card. Many won't take you to many destinations within the city. If something is left in a DC taxicab, you'll never see it again (as my poor brother experienced when he left his iPhone in a cab and the cabbie refused to return it). They charge fake surcharges, even after the price structure change. I honestly think that our taxicabs are so bad that it encourages people NOT to use them and to take their chances drinking and driving--it would be negligent of the Council to eliminate competition in a market that needs reliable and affordable transportation options.

Uber is well-organized and simple to use. They have done a wonderful job of making themselves readily available and a joy to use. Their app is something that DC cabs should be using. They enable easy use of credit cards, meaning I don't have to carry around cash in a city that I don't feel comfortable carrying cash in.

I hope you will recognize that Uber is an important business that really should light a fire under cab companies in DC to get their acts together and provide better, more reliable, safer service to DC residents. Because nothing else so far seems to have worked (including the recent fare hikes), this is probably the incentive that they need.

Sincerely,

Meredith Cain





**From:** [Meredith Cain](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:04:31 AM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown,

I beg you to please strike down the [Uber](#) amendment. Uber is a reliable and safe alternative to taxis in DC. I have had uncomfortable and unreliable service in DC cabs for years, and am so pleased to have Uber as an alternative. It is already more expensive than a cab, which is unfortunate. But to price it out of people's realm of possibility is completely unfair.

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Sincerely,

Meredith Cain



**From:** [Karisa Bruin](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:00:53 AM

---

Hello David,

Regarding the Uber Amendment and the minimum fare language:

This amendment is going to hamstring an innovative company that provides excellent service. The amendment also provides economic protection for poor cab service in the DC area.

Why would you reward failure?

Do the right thing.

**Strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Regards,  
Karisa

**From:** [Karisa Bruin](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:59:44 AM

---

Hello Tommy,

Regarding the Uber Amendment and the minimum fare language:

This amendment is going to hamstring an innovative company that provides excellent service. The amendment also provides economic protection for poor cab service in the DC area.

Why would you reward failure?

Do the right thing.

**Strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Regards,  
Karisa

--

Karisa Bruin



[www.youtube.com/karisabruin](http://www.youtube.com/karisabruin)  
[www.twitter.com/karisabruin](http://www.twitter.com/karisabruin)  
<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

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Karisa Bruin



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<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

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Karisa Bruin



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<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

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Karisa Bruin



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<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

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Karisa Bruin



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<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

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Karisa Bruin



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[www.twitter.com/karisabruin](http://www.twitter.com/karisabruin)  
<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

**From:** [Karisa Bruin](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:58:27 AM

---

Hello Michael,

Regarding the Uber Amendment and the minimum fare language:

This amendment is going to hamstring an innovative company that provides excellent service. The amendment also provides economic protection for poor cab service in the DC area.

Why would you reward failure?

Do the right thing.

**Strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Regards,  
Karisa

--

Karisa Bruin



[www.youtube.com/karisabruin](http://www.youtube.com/karisabruin)  
[www.twitter.com/karisabruin](http://www.twitter.com/karisabruin)  
<http://www.graytalentgroup.com/talents/karisa-bruin>

**From:** [Tom Falatko](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:43:53 AM

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As a native Washingtonian and ward 2 residents and someone who frequently travels for business in my experience is that DC's Taxis fleet is among the worst in the world. Many vehicles are old and in terrible shape. Furthermore, generally they refuse to take taking credit cards and will either try to charge you more or not take you since you won't pay cash.

Based on this I have been using Uber and loving it and I am asking you to support Umbers as a less expensive UberX option on an all hybrid fleet. Please allow competition to drive innovation and free market capitalism. If the taxi service cannot compete then let them lose their business and let DC be the example for capitalism and free marketplace innovation and growth.

I keep hearing that the fleet is going to be improved (financed by increase fares) so I am dismayed by the prospect of a bill that will limit competition enabling the current situation to remain the same or further decline. Why not put competitive pressure to improve the situation. Let's make DC a world class destination not one with third world transportation.

Thomas Falatko

[REDACTED]

Washington DC

**From:** [Tom Falatko](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:42:23 AM

---

As a native Washingtonian and ward 2 residents and someone who frequently travels for business in my experience is that DC's Taxis fleet is among the worst in the world. Many vehicles are old and in terrible shape. Furthermore, generally they refuse to take taking credit cards and will either try to charge you more or not take you since you won't pay cash.

Based on this I have been using Uber and loving it and I am asking you to support Umbers as a less expensive UberX option on an all hybrid fleet. Please allow competition to drive innovation and free market capitalism. If the taxi service cannot compete then let them lose their business and let DC be the example for capitalism and free marketplace innovation and growth.

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Thomas Falatko



Washington DC

**From:** [Sara van Geertruyden](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:41:29 AM

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Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Evans:

I find it extremely discouraging that you and the DC Council are considering laws that would seem to arbitrarily limit DC residents' transportation options. This is important to us as public transportation is very important to us.

I am writing in reference to the services offered by Uber.

We typically use Metro and DC cabs, but there are times and locations where Metro is not available and it is difficult to get taxi services. In these very specific situations, Uber fills a very important void.

For example: my teenage nephew is living with us and, at times, needs taxi service in areas that do not have easy access to a taxi. We rely on Uber for his safe transportation home late at night and from his friends' houses in residential neighborhoods not serviced regularly by taxis. I certainly don't want him wandering the streets for a taxi.

Restricting fair trade in transportation services seems anti-competitive and bad for DC residents.

We would welcome and appreciate an open discussion on the quality and availability of DC's public transportation, including taxi services and Metro options. Unfortunately, given tomorrow's vote, the Council has shorted the opportunity for debate. We wanted, but were denied, a full understanding of who is really in charge of various DC transportation options and the impact of arbitrary decisions to limit public transportation options.

Your response and vote will be noted.

Sara Traigle van Geertruyden

Washington, DC 20002



**From:** [Mark Wright](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:16:03 AM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

I would like to register my concern that the D.C. Council may be considering legislation this week in a so-called taxi improvement law designed to handicap Uber.

Uber is an absolute essential for those of us living in Takoma in Ward 4. We don't have taxis driving around up here, even at Takoma Metro or along Georgia Avenue. If I call for a taxi, there can be an enormous wait, or the taxi may not even come at all! On those rare occasions we see an empty taxi on Georgia, they won't stop for us. When I'm downtown at night wanting to come home, many taxi drivers do not want to take people up to the northern tip of the District. Most of the time when I get a taxi to come home, the taxi driver doesn't know my street or the shortest and quickest ways up here, and I end up being financially penalized by their wandering around the neighborhood—assuming they've even headed the right direction in the first place! The corrupt D.C. taxicab industry is totally unresponsive to the complaints and needs of those of us not downtown or in Georgetown, and they flat out do not care.

Uber offers us a safe, reliable alternative to local taxis, and here in this part of the District, Uber is extremely necessary.

Please do not support an Uber Amendment that is going to hurt those of us who depend upon their service!

Thank you very much.

**Mark A. Wright**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
<http://about.me/markwright>

**From:** [Mark Wright](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:12:54 AM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

I would like to register my concern that the D.C. Council may be considering legislation this week in a so-called taxi improvement law designed to handicap Uber.

Uber is an absolute essential for those of us living in Takoma in Ward 4. We don't have taxis driving around up here, even at Takoma Metro or along Georgia Avenue. If I call for a taxi, there can be an enormous wait, or the taxi may not even come at all! On those rare occasions we see an empty taxi on Georgia, they won't stop for us. When I'm downtown at night wanting to come home, many taxi drivers do not want to take people up to the northern tip of the District. Most of the time when I get a taxi to come home, the taxi driver doesn't know my street or the shortest and quickest ways up here, and I end up being financially penalized by their wandering around the neighborhood—assuming they've even headed the right direction in the first place! The corrupt D.C. taxicab industry is totally unresponsive to the complaints and needs of those of us not downtown or in Georgetown, and they flat out do not care.

Uber offers us a safe, reliable alternative to local taxis, and here in this part of the District, Uber is extremely necessary.

Please do not support an Uber Amendment that is going to hurt those of us who depend upon their service!

Thank you very much.

**Mark A. Wright**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
<http://about.me/markwright>

**From:** [Mark Wright](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:11:59 AM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I would like to register my concern that the D.C. Council may be considering legislation this week in a so-called taxi improvement law designed to handicap Uber.

Uber is an absolute essential for those of us living in Takoma in Ward 4. We don't have taxis driving around up here, even at Takoma Metro or along Georgia Avenue. If I call for a taxi, there can be an enormous wait, or the taxi may not even come at all! On those rare occasions we see an empty taxi on Georgia, they won't stop for us. When I'm downtown at night wanting to come home, many taxi drivers do not want to take people up to the northern tip of the District. Most of the time when I get a taxi to come home, the taxi driver doesn't know my street or the shortest and quickest ways up here, and I end up being financially penalized by their wandering around the neighborhood—assuming they've even headed the right direction in the first place! The corrupt D.C. taxicab industry is totally unresponsive to the complaints and needs of those of us not downtown or in Georgetown, and they flat out do not care.

Uber offers us a safe, reliable alternative to local taxis, and here in this part of the District, Uber is extremely necessary.

Please do not support an Uber Amendment that is going to hurt those of us who depend upon their service!

Thank you very much.

**Mark A. Wright**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
<http://about.me/markwright>

**From:** [W. Victor Dymond](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:11:02 AM

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Mr. Catania:

My wife and I are Bloomingdale residents and live on 1st and Adams. We frequently use Uber when we need to be somewhere and driving is not a viable option. Taxis rarely drive up 1st Street and walking down to Rhode Island is not always practical when my wife is in heels or I am in full dress uniform in the heat of the summer, winter snow or during Derecho. Regular taxis are unreliable and inconvenient to schedule, when calling the company it frequently takes more than 5 minutes to get through and the wait is never less than a half an hour and frequently more than 45 minutes. Uber, however, is typically less than 10 minutes and you arrive in style. Uber's fleet is clean, stylish, the drivers are polite, and the whole process is convenient; basically everything the DC taxi companies are not. Personally, I find taxis to be a rather undesirable, filthy, and unpleasant way to travel and I prefer walk or find an alternative way to get home.

I understand that today the counsel will vote on measure that will effect Uber's ability to continue to provide a safe, clean, comfortable and convenient alternative to taxis. Uber is already nearly twice as expensive as taxis, which I am willing to pay for cleanliness and convenience. However, if Uber is forced to raise their rates because taxi companies don't want to compete with a company that is better than they are it will be our loss. I understand the taxi companies have several of the counsel members in their pockets, including the Mayor. I hope that you vote on behalf of your constituents to keep Uber an option for those of us who live off the main thorough fares where taxis are rare and prefer who prefer to have a clean, comfortable, stylish option to the poorly maintained DC taxi fleets.

V/r,  
W. Victor Dymond  


**From:** [W. Victor Dymond](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:10:49 AM

---

Mr. Brown:

My wife and I are Bloomingdale residents and live on 1st and Adams. We frequently use Uber when we need to be somewhere and driving is not a viable option. Taxis rarely drive up 1st Street and walking down to Rhode Island is not always practical when my wife is in heels or I am in full dress uniform in the heat of the summer, winter snow or during Derecho. Regular taxis are unreliable and inconvenient to schedule, when calling the company it frequently takes more than 5 minutes to get through and the wait is never less than a half an hour and frequently more than 45 minutes. Uber, however, is typically less than 10 minutes and you arrive in style. Uber's fleet is clean, stylish, the drivers are polite, and the whole process is convenient; basically everything the DC taxi companies are not. Personally, I find taxis to be a rather undesirable, filthy, and unpleasant way to travel and I prefer walk or find an alternative way to get home.

I understand that today the council will vote on measure that will effect Uber's ability to continue to provide a safe, clean, comfortable and convenient alternative to taxis. Uber is already nearly twice as expensive as taxis, which I am willing to pay for cleanliness and convenience. However, if Uber is forced to raise their rates because taxi companies don't want to compete with a company that is better than they are it will be our loss. I understand the taxi companies have several of the council members in their pockets, including the Mayor. I hope that you vote on behalf of your constituents to keep Uber an option for those of us who live off the main thorough fares where taxis are rare and prefer who prefer to have a clean, comfortable, stylish option to the poorly maintained DC taxi fleets.

V/r,  
W. Victor Dymond



**From:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:03:42 AM

---

Daniel P Conner  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 10:34:43 PM EDT  
**To:** "Members and Staff (COUNCIL)" <[Members-and-\[REDACTED\]](#)>  
**Subject:** Uber

Dear Members and Staff,

I want to clarify a few things about Uber. Uber is a premium car service that offers transportation in upscale vehicles and charges based on time and distance, just like a taxi. Currently, Uber operates in what is, at best, a legal gray area. However, because Uber is providing a valuable, innovative service in the District, I want to allow Uber to operate legally here.

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I am deeply disappointed that Uber has decided that it no longer supports this amendment that we negotiated in good faith. The taxi industry is one that has been regulated for a very long time. If Uber wishes to operate taxis, then it is free to do so, but it should then be subject to the same regulations and requirements of taxis.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary

**From:** [Conner, Daniel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Melissa Lavasani](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:01:43 AM

---

Daniel P Conner  
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 9, 2012 10:34:43 PM EDT  
**To:** "Members and Staff (COUNCIL)" <[Members-and-\[REDACTED\]](#)>  
**Subject:** Uber

Dear Members and Staff,

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I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary

**From:** [Slattery, Jim \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:27:55 AM

---

Already in

*Jim Slattery*

Legislative Analyst, Committee on Government Operations  
**Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Chair**  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20004 • [REDACTED] / Fax: 202-[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] • [REDACTED] • <http://www.murielbowser.com>

Click [here](#) to sign up for Councilmember Bowser's Focus on 4 e-newsletter.

---

**From:** Hawkins, Robert (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:28 AM  
**To:** Slattery, Jim (Council)  
**Subject:** FW: Uber

For taxi tab

**ROB HAWKINS**

*Legislative Director*

Office of Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20004

Tel: [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED]

Fax: [\(202\)](#) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Click [here](#) to sign up for Councilmember Bowser's Focus on 4 e-newsletter.

---

**From:** Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:35 PM  
**To:** Members and Staff (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

Dear Members and Staff,

I want to clarify a few things about Uber. Uber is a premium car service that offers transportation in upscale vehicles and charges based on time and distance, just like a taxi. Currently, Uber operates in what is, at best, a legal gray area. However, because Uber is providing a valuable, innovative service in the District, I want to allow Uber to operate legally here.

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I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary

**From:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Slattery, Jim \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:27:41 AM

---

For taxi tab

**ROB HAWKINS**

*Legislative Director*

Office of Muriel Bowser (Ward 4)

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 110

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Fax: (202) [REDACTED]

Click [here](#) to sign up for Councilmember Bowser's Focus on 4 e-newsletter.

---

**From:** Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:35 PM  
**To:** Members and Staff (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

Dear Members and Staff,

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Uber wishes to operate taxis, then it is free to do so, but it should then be subject to the same regulations and requirements of taxis.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary

**From:** [Lauren Castaldi](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:05:16 AM

---

Please do not vote for the minimum fares on Uber. DC Taxis are a joke and service is terrible. Uber is affordable with amazing customer service. I use it all the time. If DC cabs can't compete, then they better improve themselves. They don't need protection from local government.

Sincerely,

Lauren Castaldi

DC Resident

**From:** [Lauren Castaldi](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:04:51 AM

---

Please do not vote for the minimum fares on Uber. DC Taxis are a joke and service is terrible. Uber is affordable with amazing customer service. I use it all the time. If DC cabs can't compete, then they better improve themselves. They don't need protection from local government.

Sincerely,

Lauren Castaldi

DC Resident

**From:** [Lauren Castaldi](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:04:17 AM

---

Please do not vote for the minimum fares on Uber. DC Taxis are a joke and service is terrible. Uber is affordable with amazing customer service. I use it all the time. If DC cabs can't compete, then they better improve themselves. They don't need protection from local government.

Sincerely,

Lauren Castaldi

DC Resident



**From:** [Wendy Luke](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:27:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

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Mr. Catania -- Uber has provided me and my friends with reliable, reasonably priced alternative to taxis or car service. It is easy to use and dependable. Please, please do not vote for restrictive pricing for Uber X. We deserve better options in DC.

Thank you for considering my view.

Wendy Luke

Wendy Luke  
The HR Sage

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 605

Washington, DC 20037

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

Website: <http://thehrsage.com/>

LinkedIn:

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wendylukethehrsage>



**From:** [Matthew leBarron](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:53:19 AM

---

Dear Sir

Leave ÜBER alone! They are reliable quick and insured. Clean. AC works. Polite. Take direct routes to your destination.

DC CABS SUCK AND ÜBER IS SUCCEEDING BECAUSE THEY'RE A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE!

Thanks  
Wylie St Ne Resident

Sent from my iDevice?  
Ya mon!

**From:** [Dirk Sellers](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:03:15 AM

---

Please take note that as of this evening, over 2000 residents have signed a Change.org petition encouraging the Council to VOTE AGAINST the amendment that would increase the Über fare!

Thomas Sellers  
Ward 1 Resident

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Kass, Jonathon \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:54:58 PM

---

Sorry - I missed this. This pretty much covers what I just sent.

~~~~~  
Jonathon Kass  
Office of Councilmember Tommy Wells  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 117  
Washington, DC 20004  
[REDACTED]

Contact Tommy Wells  
Tommy's Website: [www.tommywells.org](http://www.tommywells.org)  
Follow Tommy on Twitter: [twitter.com/TommyWells](https://twitter.com/TommyWells)  
Follow Tommy on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TommyWellsDC](https://www.facebook.com/TommyWellsDC)

---

**From:** Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:34 PM  
**To:** Members and Staff (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Uber

Dear Members and Staff,

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I am deeply disappointed that Uber has decided that it no longer supports this amendment that we

negotiated in good faith. The taxi industry is one that has been regulated for a very long time. If Uber wishes to operate taxis, then it is free to do so, but it should then be subject to the same regulations and requirements of taxis.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary

**From:** [Ed Carp](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:47:37 PM

---

David:

As a constituent of yours I am writing to let you know that Uber is a service I value and I hope you will vote against any language creating a minimum charge for Uber services. Such a vote would be unfair, uncompetitive and it would hurt your constituents.

Uber is not competing for taxi business as I cannot hail one on the street. Calling for an Uber limo is no different than using a phone to call a limo service. Happily, however, the Uber App simply provides me with much more information regarding available drivers and their arrival times.

We should be welcoming Uber to Washington, DC with open arms. Tilting the field in favor of an old, well-entrenched city lobby does not serve the city or its residents well – and smacks of “same old, same old” for the DC City Council.

Please vote “no” and reject any language that would restrict the prices Uber can charge for its services.

Thanks, Ed Carp

Edward Y. Carp  
Continental Properties, Ltd.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mobile

[REDACTED] fax

<http://www.zillow.com/profile/edcarpdc/>

**From:** [Ed Carp](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:44:24 PM

---

Michael:

As a constituent of yours I am writing to let you know that Uber is a service I value and I hope you will vote against any language creating a minimum charge for Uber services. Such a vote would be unfair, uncompetitive and it would hurt your constituents.

Uber is not competing for taxi business as I cannot hail one on the street. Calling for an Uber limo is no different than using a phone to call a limo service. Happily, however, the Uber App simply provides me with much more information regarding available drivers and their arrival times.

We should be welcoming Uber to Washington, DC with open arms. Tilting the field in favor of an old, well-entrenched city lobby does not serve the city or its residents well – and smacks of “same old, same old” for the DC City Council.

Please vote “no” and reject any language that would restrict the prices Uber can charge for its services.

Thanks, Ed Carp

Edward Y. Carp  
Continental Properties, Ltd.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mobile

[REDACTED] fax

<http://www.zillow.com/profile/edcarpdc/>

**From:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Members and Staff \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:34:44 PM

---

Dear Members and Staff,

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I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Mary



**From:** [Kim Nettles](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:30:33 PM

---

*I urge you not to support the proposed action before the City Council to limit sedan services by setting artificial protectionist price boundaries and other unnecessary regulatory constraints that prevent innovative efforts by new companies to deliver the best service for the best price. Basic economics of cost and scale should (and will) dictate appropriate price limits for such services, not arbitrary political decisions to benefit a few who would prefer not to compete fairly. If better services are delivered at a fair price, all residents of the district as a whole will be better served, and our city's overall reputation and image with visitors will benefit.*

*Kim Nettles*



*Washington DC 20008*

**From:** [Kim Nettles](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:27:46 PM

---

*Dear DC Councilman,*

*As a DC homeowner, I urge you not to support the proposed action before the City Council to limit sedan services by setting artificial protectionist price boundaries and other unnecessary regulatory constraints that prevent innovative efforts by new companies to deliver the best service for the best price. Basic economics of cost and scale should (and will) dictate appropriate price limits for such services, not arbitrary political decisions to benefit a few who would prefer not to compete fairly. If better services are delivered at a fair price, all residents of the district as a whole will be better served, and our city's overall reputation and image with visitors will benefit.*

*Kim Nettles*

*Washington DC 20008*

**From:** [Greg Desautels](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:10:11 PM

---

Progress - of a society, a city or a person - is never found by stifling innovation.

It's easy to do the near-term math on who has given me more money yesterday or who will yell the loudest tomorrow, but you are there to make hard decisions for the long-term.

Please support über and the users who utilize their service.

Greg Desautels

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Greg Desautels](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:08:05 PM

---

Progress - of a society, a city or a person - is never found by stifling innovation.

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Please support über and the users who utilize their service.

Greg Desautels

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jason Maga](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:59:56 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I understand that the DC Council is planning to vote on a measure that would restrict new car services like Uber from offering a lower-priced product. I'd like to urge you to vote against such a measure.

DC is a great place, but one of my least favorite things about living here is our wretched choice of taxi services. I often feel like I need a shower after riding in one of our filthy cabs. Calling a taxi requires a Rolodex full of phone numbers. On busy late nights, when I'm trying to get home to Capitol Hill I can have a hard time getting a cab because drivers won't let me in until they have confirmed I'm going someplace where they can get another fare, which the Hill is not. Other cities like New York and even Arlington seem to have figured out how to provide clean taxis with drivers who don't try to rip you off, but DC hasn't gotten there yet.

Now another company wants to offer an alternative to our third-world taxi service, at a price that average people can afford. How could that possibly be a bad thing? If DC taxi drivers are concerned about the competition, they should clean up their cabs and make it less of a chore to use a taxi. Since taxi drivers seem unwilling to do that, DC residents should be allowed an alternative.

Please vote against the restrictions on other car services.

Thank you,  
Jason Maga  
(Capitol Hill)

**From:** [Joe Bailey](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:53:07 PM

---

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment

--

Thanks,

Joe

**From:** [Stacy Bogert](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:42:20 PM

---

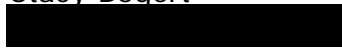
Councilman Wells-

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding proposed legislation to limit the Uber car service. As a resident of Ward 6, finding reliable transportation to and from other parts of the city is difficult. Taxis do not respond to calls for service in this area. I am forced to walk many blocks to find a cab, and then there is no guarantee how easy that will be. Similarly, friends are reluctant to frequent the Ward 6 neighborhood restaurants and other businesses out of a fear that they will not be able to get a taxi to return home. Moreover, when traveling elsewhere in the city and trying to come home, we are faced with taxi drivers who can't be trusted and add on ridiculous surcharges. In short, the DC taxi system is frustrating, at best, and excludes whole sections of the city at its worst.

By contrast, Uber offers a reliable service. Each time I have called Uber, they have responded with a car in a timely basis. No longer do I have to fear missing flights to the airport or wonder how I will get to an important meeting. Their drivers are professional. The fares are straightforward -- in particular, unlike DC taxi drivers, they do not charge two separate fares when two passengers want to be dropped off a mere three blocks apart.

In short, please do not do anything to compromise the service of Uber. They offer a solution to a problem -- the DC taxi system -- that has been non-functioning for years. Their presence encourages people to frequent Ward 6 businesses. Ward 6 residents rely on Uber for service that DC taxi operators refuse to provide. If anything, DC should be encouraging Uber to help meet the needs of its citizens, not driving it away as a favor to the DC taxi lobby.

Thank you.  
Stacy Bogert




**From:** [Rob Hill](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:33:45 PM

---

I don't use it a lot, but seems to me that if Uber wants to charge less for rides in a hybrid it would make sense for the city to allow them. Please allow them to do so and strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Rob Hill

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.




**From:** [Rob Hill](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:32:51 PM

---

I don't use it a lot, but seems to me that if Uber wants to charge less for rides in a hybrid it would make sense for the city to allow them. Please allow them to do so and strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Rob Hill


A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Rob Hill.

**From:** [Rob Hill](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:32:20 PM

---

I don't use it a lot, but seems to me that if Uber wants to charge less for rides in a hybrid it would make sense for the city to allow them. Please allow them to do so and strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Rob Hill



**From:** [Steve Kotorowski](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:19:16 PM

---

Please do not require minimum fares for Uber users. By doing so, the council is on dangerous ground....interfering with private enterprise.

**From:** [Trent Bauserman](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:17:50 PM

---

Dear DC City Council members,

I've never written my Council members before, but upon hearing about your proposed changes to the taxi modernization bill to prevent Uber from competing with DC's lack-luster taxi cabs by providing their own lower-cost version I am floored.

I've lived in DC for 10 + car-free years now, 3 years as a homeowner and I love this city. It's a great place to live, work and play. But one of its shortcomings has always been its taxi system. While I applaud the efforts of some members of the Council to push for taxi modernization (accepting credit cards, providing GPS maps, etc.) still much work is needed. And the very thought that some Council Members are trying to prevent Uber from competing is mind boggling.

Uber has been such a success and, in part, makes living in DC w/out a car so convenient. I rarely use their service, but it's clean, reliable, and dependent. They have a care for their customers that pales in comparison to most of the taxis I've used. This is precisely the type of service DC should be supporting and help grow to attract business and professionals to the City. It also provides an important link to many residents in areas underserved by taxis.

I urge you to reject the anti-Uber amendment and keep DC moving forward.

Sincerely,

Trent Bauserman

[REDACTED]

WDC 20009

**From:** [Mustafa Popal](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:47:43 PM

---

I'm writing as a tax-paying resident and Uber supporter to voice my strong objection to the Council's "Uber Amendment." The amendment is un-American and wrong. It stifles competition and props up a taxicab system that is in desperate need of reform. Punishing an effective and well-run alternative is protectionism reminiscent of a communist system beholden to politics vs. free market competition. We expect the DC Council to respect and protect America's fundamental economic principles and the rights of DC consumers.

Make the right choice and strike down the amendment!

**From:** [Mustafa Popal](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:47:24 PM

---

I'm writing as a tax-paying resident and Uber supporter to voice my strong objection to the Council's "Uber Amendment." The amendment is un-American and wrong. It stifles competition and props up a taxicab system that is in desperate need of reform. Punishing an effective and well-run alternative is protectionism reminiscent of a communist system beholden to politics vs. free market competition. We expect the DC Council to respect and protect America's fundamental economic principles and the rights of DC consumers.

Make the right choice and strike down the amendment!

**From:** [Mustafa Popal](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:47:23 PM

---

I'm writing as a tax-paying resident and Uber supporter to voice my strong objection to the Council's "Uber Amendment." The amendment is un-American and wrong. It stifles competition and props up a taxicab system that is in desperate need of reform. Punishing an effective and well-run alternative is protectionism reminiscent of a communist system beholden to politics vs. free market competition. We expect the DC Council to respect and protect America's fundamental economic principles and the rights of DC consumers.

Make the right choice and strike down the amendment!

**From:** [SUE ANN MCELROY](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:19:57 PM

---

Uber is the best thing to happen to DC transportation since we've been visiting our children in the past 5 years. The metro has all too frequent outages, and taxis are impossible to find where our son lives in the Northeast. Calling a taxi service for a pickup in the Northeast gets you a taxi about 30% of the time. Since we began using UBER we've been picked up in the Northeast within 8 minutes whether we call at 10am or 10pm. UBER has kept residents off the road after entertaining, when they shouldn't be driving but have no other way to get their guests back to their homes or hotels. We've recommended it to our friends visiting DC and everyone has said it has solved the one intractable problem in DC. Reliable transportation! Don't take away a free market solution to a problem in our nation's capital. Politicians have done enough damage to our country by valuing special interests over the people's interest. Back off and do what you've been elected to do. We the people, want UBER.



**From:** [SUE ANN MCELROY](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:17:40 PM

---

Uber is the best thing to happen to DC transportation since we've been visiting our children in the past 5 years. The metro has all too frequent outages, and taxis are impossible to find where our son lives in the Northeast. Calling a taxi service for a pickup in the Northeast gets you a taxi about 30% of the time. Since we began using UBER we've been picked up in the Northeast within 8 minutes whether we call at 10am or 10pm. UBER has kept residents off the road after entertaining, when they shouldn't be driving but have no other way to get their guests back to their homes or hotels. We've recommended it to our friends visiting DC and everyone has said it has solved the one intractable problem in DC. Reliable transportation! Don't take away a free market solution to a problem in our nation's capital. Politicians have done enough damage to our country by valuing special interests over the people's interest. Back off and do what you've been elected to do. We the people, want UBER.

**From:** [SUE ANN MCELROY](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:14:42 PM

---

Uber is the best thing to happen to DC transportation since we've been visiting our children in the past 5 years. The metro has all too frequent outages, and taxis are impossible to find where our son lives in the Northeast. Calling a taxi service for a pickup in the Northeast gets you a taxi about 30% of the time. Since we began using UBER we've been picked up in the Northeast within 8 minutes whether we call at 10am or 10pm. UBER has kept residents off the road after entertaining, when they shouldn't be driving but have no other way to get their guests back to their homes or hotels. We've recommended it to our friends visiting DC and everyone has said it has solved the one intractable problem in DC. Reliable transportation! Don't take away a free market solution to a problem in our nation's capital. Politicians have done enough damage to our country by valuing special interests over the people's interest. Back off and do what you've been elected to do. We the people, want UBER.

**From:** [Paula Wesley](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:03:12 PM

---

Hello,

My name is Paula Wesley. I live on Wylie St in NE. How dare you want to hold Uber hostage for providing a better service than the horrible taxi service in DC. I grew up here. There was a time period when I worked in Georgetown and lived in NE, I couldn't get a taxi. It sucked. Do you think it's any better now? Uber doesn't care what part of the city you are in. We are already held hostage, by ridiculous taxes and no rights. I like Uber and so do my friends. We don't use it all the time, but we do use it and recommend it to other people. I still take the horrible taxis in the city and every time I do after Uber I am disappointed by the service. The negotiation for AC, or heat or asking them to turn off or down the music. It's ridiculous, they are providing a service for payment and act as though they are doing me a favor by taking the long way to my destination and charging me for the privilege. The truth is, if the Taxi service in DC was decent or good in any way, there would be no use for Uber. But, clearly there is, so back off Uber.

Paula Wesley

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Taylor Llewellyn](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:48:49 PM

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Dear Council Members,

As a resident of D.C. I find your efforts to thwart transportation competition highly troubling. Although not surprising, it is disappointing to see an enterprising upstart in the District be stiff-armed by policy makers in attempt to keep taxi pricing artificially high. Uber is an amazing transportation option and I think you are remiss to create a challenging landscape for them, or anybody else, to maneuver.

There is zero public interest for mandating a price floor for sedan and competitive alternatives to taxi service. This regulation will destroy an otherwise functioning marketplace to unfairly and unreasonably benefit a single, small group of people: taxi drivers. In particular, efforts to mandate sedan service at a starting basis of 5 times (!!!) the taxi rate smack of the hubris one could only expect from a coddled and monopoly special interest group.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your position. Please let me know if you would like to discuss Uber's service further, from my perspective as a customer.

Sincerely,

Taylor Llewellyn

--

[@taylorllewellyn](#)

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**Join Tucker Blair here**  
<http://on.fb.me/sBPOBS>

**From:** [Clifford Hopkins](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:44:36 PM

---

I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. I love Uber and the service Uber provides. Cab service in DC is appalling. We need an alternative, and I urge the DC Council \*not\* to interfere with Uber and limit consumer choice.

Therefore, I do not want the Council to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.

Please let me know where you stand on this topic.

Best regards,

Clifford Hopkins & Stephen Callcott

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Tim Shaver](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:42:12 PM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

Please do not vote to make it illegal for Uber to lower it's fares. Uber is an amazing feature of the District and I utilize it often for transportation from my neighborhood in Burleith.

It is impossible to hail a cab at any corner within five blocks of my house and the convenience and professionalism of Uber drivers is unparalleled - especially in contrast to any of the horrible cab companies in DC. Their drivers are rude, their cars are dirty, and I have never had an enjoyable ride.

I beg of you to vote accordingly tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tim Shaver

**From:** [Tim Shaver](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:41:34 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

Please do not vote to make it illegal for Uber to lower it's fares. Uber is an amazing feature of the District and I utilize it often for transportation from my neighborhood in Burleith.

It is impossible to hail a cab at any corner within five blocks of my house and the convenience and professionalism of Uber drivers is unparalleled - especially in contrast to any of the horrible cab companies in DC. Their drivers are rude, their cars are dirty, and I have never had an enjoyable ride.

I beg of you to vote accordingly tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tim Shaver

**From:** [Mike Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:40:46 PM

---

Stop screwing these guys! I had to wait 20 minutes at 3am last night outside union station for a cab, then it took him 20 minutes to take me on a,10 min drive, I am certain there are thousands and thousands of similar stories like that, let uber compete, its good for us residents.

Mike henderson  
dc resident



**From:** [Caryn Schenewerk](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:40:17 PM


---

David,

I LOVE my uber service and am so grateful for a professional, courteous, tech-friendly, clean and responsive alternative to DC's traditional cab service.

I take cabs on a daily basis for work and I dread it every time because it's such a gamble that I usually lose. I have not replaced my cab usage even 10% by Über yet but when I have the time to use Über, it is a treat.

Please do not take any action to restrict Uber's ability to operate in DC, set fair prices and bring legitimate competition to the DC transportation system. I have been waiting patiently for an alternative to hot, stinky, jerky-driving, over charging, rude and dirty cabs. Vote against the anti-Über amendment and any other efforts to restrict competition

Thank you,  
> Caryn Schenewerk  
>   
> 20010  
>  
>  
>

**From:** [Tim Shaver](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:39:44 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

Please do not vote to make it illegal for Uber to lower it's fares. Uber is an amazing feature of the District and I utilize it often for transportation from my neighborhood in Burleith.

It is impossible to hail a cab at any corner within five blocks of my house and the convenience and professionalism of Uber drivers is unparalleled - especially in contrast to any of the horrible cab companies in DC. Their drivers are rude, their cars are dirty, and I have never had an enjoyable ride.

I beg of you to vote accordingly tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tim Shaver

**From:** [Steve Harter](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:30:01 PM

---

Good job at controlling this rouge app that has no respect for city goverence. Uber means that they are above the law.

**From:** [Steve Harter](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:22:04 PM

---


Good job on controlling this rouge app that has no respect for city goverence ! Uber means above the law !

**From:** [Joseph Spector](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:18:15 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare in the Uber Ammendment tomorrow! A low priced hybrid alternative which is actually a much better, more efficient system is what DC needs! Allow this district to modernize!

Thank you,  
Your constituent  
Joseph Spector


  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Joseph Spector](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:17:23 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare in the Uber Ammendment tomorrow! A low priced hybrid alternative which is actually a much better, more efficient system is what DC needs! Allow this district to modernize!

Thank you,  
Your constituent  
Joseph Spector

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Musslewhite, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:17:18 PM

---

David,

Please ensure that the Council strikes the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment you are considering tomorrow. As CEO of over 1,200 employees here in the District and a resident of Ward 3, I have a strong interest in preserving affordable business transportation options for our staff and our customers. Mandated minimums do not further this interest.

Thank you very much,

Robert

**Robert Musslewhite**

Chief Executive Officer

The Advisory Board Company

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**From:** [Joseph Spector](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:17:07 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare in the Uber Ammendment tomorrow! A low priced hybrid alternative which is actually a much better, more efficient system is what DC needs! Allow this district to modernize!

Thank you,  
Your constituent  
Joseph Spector

  
Washington, DC 20001



**From:** [Musslewhite, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:16:52 PM

---

Michael,

Please ensure that the Council strikes the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment you are considering tomorrow. As CEO of over 1,200 employees here in the District and a resident of Ward 3, I have a strong interest in preserving affordable business transportation options for our staff and our customers. Mandated minimums do not further this interest.

Thank you very much,

Robert

**Robert Musslewhite**

Chief Executive Officer

The Advisory Board Company

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**From:** [Joseph Spector](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:14:47 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare in the Uber Ammendment tomorrow! A low priced hybrid alternative which is actually a much better, more efficient system is what DC needs! Allow this district to modernize!

Thank you,  
Your constituent  
Joseph Spector

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:14:33 PM

---

Dear Council member Catania -

I really think that it is appalling that the DC council would consider a vote that would set the minimum fare for uber so much higher than a taxi. Especially when the taxi industry has such vile contempt for its consumer. I have used Über in several occasions with great success. The cars are clean and the drivers are friendly and professional. The majority of taxis in this city are dirty, in poor repair with unprofessional drivers. It is embarrassing to be the Capitol of the US with such poor taxi service, it is down right embarrassing. Then, when there is a nice, viable option, the city council is thinking about voting to make it not a competitive option. If you vote in favor of the high minimum fare for Über, I greatly question your commitment to making DC a better city to live and visit.

John Curtin  
DC Resident

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Emma McCluskey](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:37:48 PM

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City Councilmen & Councilwomen;

As a Washington DC resident, a supporter of our community, a supporter of our local businesses and tax payer I am asking that you please take into serious considering the effect of hiking up Uber's fares and monopolizing the taxi transportation system in Washington, DC.

As an elected official, you know your duties, your responsibilities and it is not my job to spell them out to you. It is my job, however, to write to you as a concerned citizen and urge you to listen to the tax paying citizens. Uber is a viable alternative to the taxi services in DC and has revolutionized the means of transportation in our city.

Most importantly, Uber has created numerous jobs for people and has provided a main and secondary source of income for the drivers. I think we can all agree that this is of the utmost importance.

Please use your brains when voting tomorrow. Hiking Uber's fares does not help the DC public, small business, and the community in general.

Thank you for taking the time to read the voice of a concerned citizen.

Sincerely,

Emily A. McCluskey

**From:** [Matthew Aichele](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:32:06 PM

---

I am writing to ask you to please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#). To vote otherwise would be an unfair interference in the consumer's right to choose a safe and clean service, as well as a serious impediment on citizens who wish to travel safely in this city. I have used Uber to take multiple trips to the hospital and to my doctor's office, when no cabs were available. I have used it to travel late at night, when it was not safe to stand in the street waiting for a cab.

Choose competition. Vote against protectionism and racketeering.

Matthew Aichele

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Matthew Aichele](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:31:01 PM

---

I am writing to ask you to please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#). To vote otherwise would be an unfair interference in the consumer's right to choose a safe and clean service, as well as a serious impediment on citizens who wish to travel safely in this city. I have used Uber to take multiple trips to the hospital and to my doctor's office, when no cabs were available. I have used it to travel late at night, when it was not safe to stand in the street waiting for a cab.

Choose competition. Vote against protectionism and racketeering.

Matthew Aichele

**From:** [Adam Aigner-Treworgy](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:24:27 PM

---

I wanted to write to as a resident of the district to express my support for Uber in its endeavor to offer more services to the residents of Washington DC. I find the taxi system in DC to be arcane and generally extremely unfriendly to consumers. Uber may not have entered the DC market the way you or the taxi drivers would have liked, but it provides an extremely useful and user-friendly service that is much needed in the district. I use both taxis and Uber as means of conveyance, and I find that they fill different roles. If I'm able to flag a cab, I'm quite happy to take a taxi, but calling a taxi to come to you in the District is nearly impossible. So Uber fills the role of a reliable, friendly and extremely professional service when I need a car to pick me up at an out-of-the-way location. Preventing Uber from providing this service and limiting their freedom to compete with taxis would be preventing a new business from serving the DC community and improving residents' lives. I hope you'll support Uber and vote against the minimum fare amendment tomorrow.

Thank you,

Adam Aigner-Treworgy



**From:** [Christopher M. campagna](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:22:24 PM

---

Uber is the best thing to happen to transportation in DC in a generation. Taxi's are total embarrassment, UBER will be the best thing that ever happened to sorry DC taxi cab companies. The local cab companies will wither improve their service, the condition of the cabs (currently atrocious), and hey what a novel idea the drivers will actually have to know where things are, and bonus HOW TO GET THERE or they will be out of business. DC cabs are pathetic, and an embarrassment to the city.

Uber is providing a first class alternative, don't screw it up. They are using technology, and innovation to provide DC citizens and visitors with a superior transportation alternative.

STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE AMMENDMANT!

Christopher M. Campagna, MICP

**President**

**Braddock Commercial Real Estate Services**

[REDACTED] - Mobile

braddockcommercial - Skype

[REDACTED] - email



**From:** [William J. Cook](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:04:33 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

**William J. Cook**

**From:** [William J. Cook](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:03:38 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

**William J. Cook**  
**Washington, DC**

**From:** [Mary Abbajay](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:00:20 PM

---

Hello Councilman Catania,

I am writing to express my opinion about Uber. Please do not hinder Uber from being a competitive and reliable option for DC residents--especially for those of us who rely on taxis and don't live downtown where hailing one is easy. **Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.** Competition is good for the people.

All my best,

Mary

**Mary Abbajay, Principal**  
Careerstone Group, LLC  
Office: [REDACTED]  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
[www.careerstonegroup.com](http://www.careerstonegroup.com)  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Karl/Sting](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:00:17 PM

---

Stop the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. Let choice, competition, and the market place dictate!

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Mary Abbajay](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:59:52 PM

---

Hello Councilman Brown,

I am writing to express my opinion about Uber. Please do not hinder Uber from being a competitive and reliable option for DC residents--especially for those of us who rely on taxis and don't live downtown where hailing one is easy. **Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.** Competition is good for the people.

All my best,

Mary

**Mary Abbajay, Principal**

Careerstone Group, LLC

Office: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[www.careerstonegroup.com](http://www.careerstonegroup.com)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Karl/Sting](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:52:13 PM

---

Strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment let choice, competition and the market place dictate.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Chelsea Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:49:34 PM

---

As a young professional woman in DC, I have many times found Uber to be the safest and most convenient travel option available especially when traveling by myself at night. The cabs in the city are unprofessional, rude and unpleasant to be in while I have only experienced exceptional service when riding with Uber.

And now, Uber is trying to make their product not only cheaper (a big help to anyone living in the District who is already paying some of the highest taxes in the nation) but better for the environment as well. But by placing an outrageous and unnecessary cap on Uber's minimum fare, the city council is hurting all of DC's residents as well as any business owner who ever considered locating their business in DC. It's about time the city start focusing on the things that actually need their attention--like the embarrassingly damaged roads, the frequent muggings, and low-performing schools--instead of picking winners and losers in the marketplace and harming DC residents in the process.

Chelsea Wilson

**From:** [Esther Kahng](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:49:27 PM

---

Dear City Council Member,

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber provides great service that is safer and more efficient than taxis. The competition from Uber will also likely encourage the taxi industry to improve its services. I urge you to vote to allow Uber to continue to provide its services at lower rates so that it will be more affordable and more widely available. Thank you!

--

Sincerely,

**Esther Kahng**  
Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D. expected, May 2013



**From:** [Esther Kahng](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:49:05 PM

---

Dear City Council Member,

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber provides great service that is safer and more efficient than taxis. The competition from Uber will also likely encourage the taxi industry to improve its services. I urge you to vote to allow Uber to continue to provide its services at lower rates so that it will be more affordable and more widely available. Thank you!

--

Sincerely,

**Esther Kahng**  
Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D. expected, May 2013

**From:** [Esther Kahng](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:48:28 PM

---

Dear City Council Member,

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Uber provides great service that is safer and more efficient than taxis. The competition from Uber will also likely encourage the taxi industry to improve its services. I urge you to vote to allow Uber to continue to provide its services at lower rates so that it will be more affordable and more widely available. Thank you!

--

Sincerely,


**Esther Kahng**  
Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D. expected, May 2013

**From:** [James schiff](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:47:11 PM

---

DONT PENALIZE UBER BECAUSE WE HAVE A BAD AND UNRELIABLE TAXI SERVICE  
IN DC.

JAMES H SCHIFF



**From:** [Peter True](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:45:51 PM

---

Mr. Brown,

I understand the council will be considering action against Uber, a business that provides an excellent service to customers and your constituents at a reasonable price. From what I can tell, it appears that the council is considering stopping Uber from introducing a fleet of hybrid vehicles into circulation in DC? Such a decision would be against the interests of both consumers you represent, and the environment we all share.

Unfortunately, I would be unable to support you in the future if you side with the council in taking such a backward stance on an issue so important to consumers today and the next generation of Americans who will have to breathe the air we leave them. I know the Taxi drivers are an important lobby, but this anti-competitive and harmful action would be an unacceptable breach of the public trust.

Please make us proud and stand up for consumers and competition.

Thank you,

Peter True

**From:** [James schiff](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:45:27 PM

---

DONT PENALIZE UBER BECAUSE WE HAVE A BAD AND UNRELIABLE TAXI SERVICE IN DC.

UBER SERVES A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT THE TAXI BUSINESS WILL NOT. UBER IT IS CLEAN RELIABLE AND DEPENDABLE.

JAMES H SCHIFF



**From:** [Les Quintana](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:44:32 PM

---

Good afternoon -

UBER is a reliable, cost effective, and competitive based service. The current amendment will limit competition and further encourage DC's cab driver's to provide poor service at a horrible price. Cab drivers discriminate based on location of one's destination and appearance. UBER's business model doesn't allow for this to happen, nor for drivers to refuse fares. UBER provides a safe and reliable service. Should UBER be put an economic disadvantage based on poor politics - I can assure you many will revisit the current issues based with DC cabs.

One should also mention that - there must be an alternative to DC cabs - and competition is the best option.

R,  
Les Quintana

**From:** [Les Quintana](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:42 PM

---

Good afternoon -

UBER is a reliable, cost effective, and competitive based service. The current amendment will limit competition and further encourage DC's cab driver's to provide poor service at a horrible price. Cab drivers discriminate based on location of one's destination and appearance. UBER's business model doesn't allow for this to happen, nor for drivers to refuse fares. UBER provides a safe and reliable service. Should UBER be put an economic disadvantage based on poor politics - I can assure you many will revisit the current issues based with DC cabs.

One should also mention that - there must be an alternative to DC cabs - and competition is the best option.

R,  
Les Quintana

**From:** [Brandon Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:42:39 PM

---

Hello David,

I would like to write to you to express my concern that the council might vote in favor of restricting Uber from being able to offer lower cost fare service in the DC area. As a constituent it grieves me to think that someone could be voting to actually increase the cost of transportation in the District as our economy is struggling. This would be a tax on the citizens of the city in favor of a select group of privileged businesses that do not want fair competition. It is a bit sickening to think the concern of a protected industry is more important than the people who live and work here.

I hope that you will vote as a representative of the constituency, not of a select few.

Thank you.

--

Brandon Stewart  
Aut Viam Inveniam Aut Faciam



**From:** [Brandon Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:54 PM

---

Hello,

I would like to write to you to express my concern that the council might vote in favor of restricting Uber from being able to offer lower cost fare service in the DC area. As a constituent it grieves me to think that someone could be voting to actually increase the cost of transportation in the District as our economy is struggling. This would be a tax on the citizens of the city in favor of a select group of privileged businesses that do not want fair competition. It is a bit sickening to think the concern of a protected industry is more important than the people who live and work here.

I hope that you will vote as a representative of the constituency, not of a select few.

Thank you.

--

Brandon Stewart  
Aut Viam Inveniam Aut Faciam

**From:** [James schiff](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:44 PM

---

DONT PENALIZE UBER BECAUSE WE HAVE A BAD AND UNRELIABLE TAXI BUSIESS  
IN DC.  
JAMES H SCHIFF

**From:** [Mark Kuller](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:19 PM

---

Mark Kuller, owner of DC restaurants Proof and Estadio here. The proposal under consideration re uber is an outrageous infringement on free enterprise and a disasterous result for the tens of thousands of busineesmen who prefer to use Uber. Please vote against this special interest, anti free commerce legislation. Thank you, Mark Kuller  
Sent from my rotary phone

**From:** [Mark Kuller](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:38:22 PM

---

Mark Kuller, owner of DC restaurants Proof and Estadio here. The proposal under consideration re uber is an outrageous infringement on free enterprise and a disasterous result for the tens of thousands of busineesmen who prefer to use Uber. Please vote against this special interest, anti free commerce legislation. Thank you, Mark Kuller

Sent from my rotary phone

**From:** [michael pepi](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:37:23 PM

---

Can you please give me the reason for price fixing Uber cabs rates? Is raising the cost of those you represent benefiting them in some way? Or is it about protecting an existing business at the expense of a new one and at the expense of the consumer?

**From:** [Mark Kuller](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:37:06 PM

---

Mark Kuller, owner of DC restaurants Proof and Estadio here. The proposal under consideration re uber is an outrageous infringement on free enterprise and a disasterous result for the tens of thousands of busineesmen who prefer to use Uber. Please vote against this special interest, anti free commerce legislation. Thank you, Mark Kuller


Sent from my rotary phone

**From:** [James schiff](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:36:28 PM

---

DONT PENALIZE UBER BECAUSE WE HAVE A POOR AND UNRELIABLE TAXI  
BUSINESS.

JAMES H SCHIFF



**From:** [Sherin](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:34:51 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

I use Uber as a means of transportation since Taxis have become irritatingly unreliable.

Taxis take forever to come if they come at all when you call for one and there is a shocking lack of good customer service. Many times, the cabs are dingy, poor substandard vehicles with ill mannered drivers.

Uber has always provided a very good service with impeccably clean vehicles and excellent service.

Today's email from the CEO alarmed me because I depend on Uber for reliable transportation being unable to drive for my extremely poor vision. If you don't allow Uber to provide a Low cost alternative then you are letting down a DC resident from gaining access to reliable fair cost services.

I urge you to consider whether your vote is the right thing for the residents of DC.

I believe that you care about the good of DC residents and I implore you to keep that momentum alive. To favor the taxi cab providers by unfairly denying Uber the chance to provide lower cost transportation alternatives is to tell the Taxi Cab providers that substandard operations are tolerated in DC. Our city deserves better.

Sincerely,



**From:** [Annie Baker](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:33:03 PM

---

Please strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendent.

**From:** [Ryan Singh](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32:07 PM

---

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you today in response to an email that I received from UBER regarding the proposed UBER Amendment to the Taxi Modernization bill. I would like to express my opposition to the Council's proposed amendment that would prevent UBER from lowering its prices or offering a low cost service - and to set the fare at a level higher than a taxi's minimum fare.

From UBER:

"that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**"

I do not believe that stifling competition does any good for the citizens of DC - especially when you consider the state of DC's taxis - inefficient, never on time, inflated prices, rude drivers, and on occasion, dirty cabs - I believe that competition is exactly what is needed. I have had several bad experiences with DC taxis in the last year alone - between cabs not showing up for previously called in reservations, and then being told that the cab company doesn't make reservations, prices for the same travel route differing not just on different days, but on the same day within a span of an hour or two, rude drivers, and over the last couple of years, I have noticed that although the council sets an end date for the fuel surcharge, there are taxi drivers out there that never stop charging it and it just becomes part of the normal fare.

When I moved to Columbia Heights, it would cost about \$9-10 to take a cab from 17th & R Streets NW to Taylor Street NW - now it's closer to \$15, and that's if I get a driver who takes the faster, least congested route. And on that point, I have had to tell drivers to stay off the congested areas during rush hour - because they immediately begin taking the roads with the heaviest traffic to rack up the meter. The last time I took a cab up, the fare came to \$21 - which is outrageous!

UBER provides an alternative to DC taxis and competition is exactly what is needed. So once again, I would like to express my opposition to this proposed amendment and I hope that you will vote against it.

Thank you.

Ryan Singh

 DC 20011.

**From:** [Ken Crerar](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:30:48 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania

I am writing to strongly urge you to support the effort to strike down the Minimum Fare language in the Uber amendment, but urge you to support innovative and competitive businesses in the District.

Washington is a world class city with a third world taxicab system. I am the CEO of a global trade association who has heard complaints about our Cab system for years. In the past few years it has gotten better with the advent of newer cars and meters. However we have a long way to go.

Uber has been a strong competitive force in a short time and I would urge the government to stay out of the way of this innovation . There are many times from my home on Kingle Street N.W that I am unable to get a cab to head into town or go out to dinner because the system is so poorly run. Uber has changed that, so please don't let the powerful but corrupt Taxi industry control this innovation.

I would appreciate your thoughtful response to this issue

Ken A. Crerar  
President/CEO  
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers  
701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20004  
[REDACTED] Direct



**From:** [Ken Crerar](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:40 PM

---

Dear Councilwoman Alexander

I am writing to strongly urge you to support the effort to strike down the Minimum Fare language in the Uber amendment, but urge you to support innovative and competitive businesses in the District.

Washington is a world class city with a third world taxicab system. I am the CEO of a global trade association who has heard complaints about our Cab system for years. In the past few years it has gotten better with the advent of newer cars and meters. However we have a long way to go.

Uber has been a strong competitive force in a short time and I would urge the government to stay out of the way of this innovation . There are many times from my home on Kingle Street N.W that I am unable to get a cab to head into town or go out to dinner because the system is so poorly run. Uber has changed that, so please don't let the powerful but corrupt Taxi industry control this innovation.

I would appreciate your thoughtful response to this issue

Ken A. Crerar  
President/CEO  
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers  
701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20004  
[REDACTED] Direct



**From:** [Mark Deuble](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:04 PM

---

Uber has provided me with a reliable way to get around town from an area where getting a taxi, even after calling one, is often difficult and definitely unreliable. Please don't vote to require a minimum fare no less than 5 times a taxi fare. Uber has been the most welcome addition to my travel options in the past several years. Please don't drive it away to support a corrupt taxi industry that provides such poor service to much of the city.

Sincerely,

Mark Deuble  
Ward 4

**From:** [Carl Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:29 PM

---

Mr. Brown:

I am a resident of the district, a partner at a law firm in the district, and a very happy user of Uber. I strongly urge you not to adopt rules that would restrict Uber's ability to compete effectively with taxicabs by providing an alternative (and in most respects better) service than licensed taxicabs.

Sincerely,

**Carl Nichols**

**From:** [Matthew Wendel](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:27 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

**Come on guys let the people choose.**

**From:** [Carl Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:06 PM

---

Mr. Catania:

I am a resident of the district, a partner at a law firm in the district, and a very happy user of Uber. I strongly urge you not to adopt rules that would restrict Uber's ability to compete effectively with taxicabs by providing an alternative (and in most respects better) service than licensed taxicabs.

Sincerely,

**Carl Nichols**



**From:** [David Rattner](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:24:48 PM

---

I have actually never written to a public official before but am doing so now. I understand that the DC council is voting on an resolution tomorrow that would require Uber cabs to keep their fares artificially inflated above the taxis. As I am sure you are aware the Taxi system in DC is completely and utterly broke. I live in Observatory Circle and I travel to NY weekly and more often than not cabs simply do not show up, do not know where they are going or to get a cab at Union station can take more than 40 minutes. To make all of this worse the cabs are in horrendous condition and do not take credits cards. Friend who visit DC continuously comment on how bad the cab system is. Therefore, UBER has stepped in to fill a void that is sorely needed. Their service is professional, efficient and many times the only alternative. I truly do not understand why DC would feel the need to penalize this. Please think of your constituents when you are voting on this bill.

David Rattner

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Lauren Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:30 PM

---

Please do not vote against UBER. It is the BEST service this city has seen in a long time. Competition needs to be increased and the prices lowered because this city is getting bigger. Think about NYC. Their cab prices are lower....their cab drivers are also nicer. Our cab system is AWFUL and UBER came in and saved me from dealing with rude/unruly drivers that now the police won't even bother to deal with anymore. PLEASE ALLOW UBER TO LOWER PRICES AND CREATE MORE COMPETITION. DO NOT VOTE IT DOWN.

**From:** [Ashley Stahl](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:07 PM

---

Hello,

I was recently informed that the DC City Council was interested in prohibiting Uber car from lowering its prices. I'd like to say that Uber car has been crucial to my safety and well being as a DC resident. I cannot tell you how many times I was stranded somewhere in DC, without a cab in sight. I ended up calling the cab companies who either put me on hold or promised to send a cab that never came. Thanks to Uber car, I was able to find a safe mode of transportation when I was stuck in some of DC's most questionable neighborhoods late at night. I could never have afforded to pay any more than Uber charges, but was so pleased to find a dependable way to get around the city. Uber has become a dependable safety tool for women in DC. I have many friends who depend on it as a safe and affordable way to get around the city. On top of all of this, they are incredibly professional.

There have been many occasions in DC where cab drivers are rude and sometimes offensive. Moreover, I have found myself on hold with the cab companies, none of which even guarantee that they will offer a ride to me. I was mugged while waiting for a cab, which never came. The cab companies in DC are unprofessional, undependable and overall mediocre at best. Uber changed this for me.

Uber is the ONLY dependable service in DC that compares to a cab. It keeps women like me safe and it an asset to the city. Moreover, it doesn't break our bank account. Please consider allowing Uber to continue offering safe and affordable transport for women. This issue extends beyond business and is rather a safety issue for the city.

Thanks to Uber, **women can afford safety.**

Regards,

Ashley Stahl- A DC resident and advocate for this innovative company that has improved upon my life in so many ways.

**From:** [Werner, Ruth \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Willingham, Jonathan \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:51 PM

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[http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc\\_council\\_moves\\_closer\\_to\\_making\\_u.php](http://dcist.com/2012/07/dc_council_moves_closer_to_making_u.php)

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>

**From:** [Lauren Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:34 PM

---

Please do not vote against UBER. It is the BEST service this city has seen in a long time. Competition needs to be increased and the prices lowered because this city is getting bigger. Think about NYC. Their cab prices are lower....their cab drivers are also nicer. Our cab system is AWFUL and UBER came in and saved me from dealing with rude/unruly drivers that now the police won't even bother to deal with anymore. PLEASE ALLOW UBER TO LOWER PRICES AND CREATE MORE COMPETITION. DO NOT VOTE IT DOWN.

**From:** [Brian Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Brian Fitzgerald](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:16 PM

---

Greetings, I am a resident of Washington DC. I am writing to you today to inform you that the Washington DC taxicab product is terrible, for a number of different reasons. Uber is a service that I and many of my fellow DC residents have come to use and love.

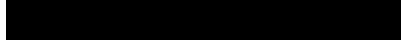
I urge you all to not pass the proposed amendments to the taxi modernization bill and at the very least do not approve the minimum fare language that is part of these amendments.

Competition and choice is what DC residents want when it comes to transportation options. If those involved in the taxicab industry don't like it, they should work harder to make their product and service better.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

**Brian Fitzgerald**



[twitter.com/bpfitzgerald](https://twitter.com/bpfitzgerald)

[linkedin.com/in/brianpfitzgerald](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianpfitzgerald)

**From:** [Lauren Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:15 PM

---

Please do not vote against UBER. It is the BEST service this city has seen in a long time. Competition needs to be increased and the prices lowered because this city is getting bigger. Think about NYC. Their cab prices are lower....their cab drivers are also nicer. Our cab system is AWFUL and UBER came in and saved me from dealing with rude/unruly drivers that now the police won't even bother to deal with anymore. PLEASE ALLOW UBER TO LOWER PRICES AND CREATE MORE COMPETITION. DO NOT VOTE IT DOWN.

**From:** [Dawn Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:25 PM

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Please strike down the minimum fare language from the uber amendment. Uber is a great alternative that this city loves

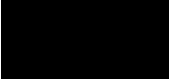
Dawn Wilson  
Controller  
CoStar Group  
[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Stookey, Jason](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:22 PM

---

Please do not impose a minimum fare for Uber. It is not the government's responsibility to interfere in matters of free market.

Jason Stookey  
VP, Sales  
Conventions & Business Operations  
National Association of Broadcasters  
1771 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
 P  
M  
[www.nabshow.com](http://www.nabshow.com)

Advocacy Education Innovation  
NAB Show | Las Vegas, NV | April 14-19, 2012

**From:** [Ken Crerar](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:59 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown

I am writing to strongly urge you to support the effort to strike down the Minimum Fare language in the Uber amendment, but urge you to support innovative and competitive businesses in the District.

Washington is a world class city with a third world taxicab system. I am the CEO of a global trade association who has heard complaints about our Cab system for years. In the past few years it has gotten better with the advent of newer cars and meters. However we have a long way to go.

Uber has been a strong competitive force in a short time and I would urge the government to stay out of the way of this innovation . There are many times from my home on Kingle Street N.W that I am unable to get a cab to head into town or go out to dinner because the system is so poorly run. Uber has changed that, so please don't let the powerful but corrupt Taxi industry control this innovation.

I would appreciate your thoughtful response to this issue

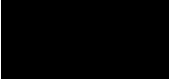
Ken A. Crerar  
President/CEO  
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers  
701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20004  
[REDACTED] Direct



**From:** [Stookey, Jason](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:53 PM

---

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Jason Stookey  
VP, Sales  
Conventions & Business Operations  
National Association of Broadcasters  
1771 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
 P  
M  
[www.nabshow.com](http://www.nabshow.com)

Advocacy Education Innovation  
NAB Show | Las Vegas, NV | April 14-19, 2012

**From:** [Stookey, Jason](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:19 PM

---

Please do not impose a minimum fare for Uber. It is not the government's responsibility to interfere in matters of free market.

Jason Stookey  
VP, Sales  
Conventions & Business Operations  
National Association of Broadcasters  
1771 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

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M  
[www.nabshow.com](http://www.nabshow.com)

Advocacy Education Innovation  
NAB Show | Las Vegas, NV | April 14-19, 2012

**From:** [Andrea Gibbons](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:03 PM

---

You must be kidding me, my daughter now has a safe cost effective way to enjoy our fabulous city. Please allow Uber to continue as a safe way to spend money out in DC. I kid you not it has cha GED their lives. Dr. Laurence Gibbons

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Adam Ozmer](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:42 PM

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Councilman Catania,

I hope this finds you well. This is my first foray in to proactively reaching out to an elected official to voice my concern on a particular vote, so I hope that gives some gravity to my concern. I write today to encourage you to strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment up for vote tomorrow. As a resident of the Palisades, I have found Uber to be the only cost effective and reliable private transportation method available to me (and I'm certainly not alone). Taxis consistently refuse to either take residents home from downtown/other locales if they live in farther flung areas of the city...or fail to show up in the first place when ordered via phone to one's home. I find it rather telling that Uber has had the highest uptake in its entire national network in DC...a city plagued by a revoltingly inept taxi system the likes of which I have never seen or experienced. Residents are fed up...and Uber has provided an alternative that has been incredibly popular - good for them for identifying a business opportunity and seizing on it. Would you bring up for vote some type of movie ticket hike for theaters that provided better service at a comparable (or even slightly higher) price to larger movie theaters? Doubtful.

The taxi companies do not need to be protected...they need to be prompted to provide better service. Make sure this happens and abandon this ridiculous pursuit against Uber. Thank you.

My best,  
Adam Ozmer

**From:** [Bret Manley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:40 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I live at 7th and G SE, and take Uber all the time. Taxi cabs won't bring me back here late at night, and I've walked home from U Street before, because no one would take me. I use Uber because it's a better service, crazy how the free market works.

The DC Council's reputation as being corrupt, and wholly unable to perform basic governing functions is already at an all time high. How many of your former colleagues are in jail, or on their way?

Don't vote to set a floor to Uber's pricing, you're only going to cement the idea in everyone's mind that you can be bought and sold (as if you need any more help) and you're going to send the message that it doesn't matter if your product is better, it only matters how many free rides you give to your constituents on election day.

Thank you,

Bret

**From:** [Perez, Evan](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:34 PM

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Mr Wells, thanks for representing us well in Ward 6.  
I support your efforts to make the city more walkable/bike friendly and less focused on individual cars.  
This is why I hope you vote against any effort to keep out Uber's lower-fare service.  
The taxi industry has done nothing to improve service, despite years of complaints.  
With Metro in reconstruction for the foreseeable future, a reliable cab system is sorely needed in DC  
I am happy to take regular cabs once they decide to improve and compete, rather than fight ever single reform measure.  
Last week for instance, I had to get to a meeting in a non-metro location, and I turned down three cabs because they lacked air conditioning (it was 100 degrees outside). I finally found one and was happy to give the driver my business.

Please vote to support competition, and please DO NOT support the taxi industry's obstruction.

Thanks,

Evan Pérez - WSJ. [REDACTED] | Cell [REDACTED]



**From:** [Adam Ozmer](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:55 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I hope this finds you well. This is my first foray in to proactively reaching out to an elected official to voice my concern on a particular vote, so I hope that gives some gravity to my concern. I write today to encourage you to strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment up for vote tomorrow. As a resident of the Palisades, I have found Uber to be the only cost effective and reliable private transportation method available to me (and I'm certainly not alone). Taxis consistently refuse to either take residents home from downtown/other locales if they live in farther flung areas of the city...or fail to show up in the first place when ordered via phone to one's home. I find it rather telling that Uber has had the highest uptake in its entire national network in DC...a city plagued by a revoltingly inept taxi system the likes of which I have never seen or experienced. Residents are fed up...and Uber has provided an alternative that has been incredibly popular - good for them for identifying a business opportunity and seizing on it. Would you bring up for vote some type of movie ticket hike for theaters that provided better service at a comparable (or even slightly higher) price to larger movie theaters? Doubtful.

The taxi companies do not need to be protected...they need to be prompted to provide better service. Make sure this happens and abandon this ridiculous pursuit against Uber. Thank you.

My best,  
Adam Ozmer

From: [Abraham, Georgia](#)  
To: [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
Subject: Uber  
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:05 PM

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Councilman Brown,

I am writing as a DC resident and an employee of a District company in support of Uber and I ask that you vote to strike the minimum fare language of the Uber amendment. I have used Uber many times, and find them to be greatly superior to DC taxis. I am aware that the Council is attempting to upgrade the DC taxi system, but I expect the taxi industry and their big bucks will sue to postpone this from happening and will prevent a taxi overhaul from taking place any time soon.

I am tired of dirty cabs; cabs not using air-conditioning because "it just broke"; drivers who don't have a clue where they're going; their inability to change a \$20 bill; and the general discourteousness of many.

Punishing a private company that is successful in other cities because they are efficient and cost-effective sends a message to other private corporations that punitive government intervention is in the wings. I cannot believe that the Council would vote to keep fares artificially high and choose to punish the citizens of Washington and the many tourists who visit in order to keep a third-world taxi system operating without competition.

Georgia abraham

**Georgia Abraham**  
**Telesis Corporation**  
**1101 30th St NW, 4th Floor**

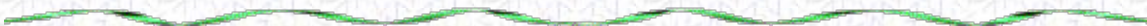
Washington, DC 20007



(direct)

(mobile)

(fax)



**From:** [Colleen Phalen](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:25 PM

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I'm writing to plead that you do not pass the Uber restrictive law

The DC City Council informed Uber that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price.

It's so hard to believe that you would put such restrictions in place. It's your job to fight for the citizens of this city, not for a special interest group of cab drivers. Every other majorcity in America has worked with Uber and not enacted such arcane and UnAmerican laws.

Colleen Phalen



Washington, DC

**From:** [Colleen Phalen](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:03 PM

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I'm writing to plead that you do not pass the Uber restrictive law

The DC City Council informed Uber that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price.

It's so hard to believe that you would put such restrictions in place. It's your job to fight for the citizens of this city, not for a special interest group of cab drivers. Every other city in America has worked with Uber and not enacted such arcane and UnAmerican laws.

Colleen Phalen



Washington, DC

**From:** [Adam Ozmer](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:55 PM

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Councilman Brown,

I hope this finds you well. This is my first foray in to proactively reaching out to an elected official to voice my concern on a particular vote, so I hope that gives some gravity to my concern. I write today to encourage you to strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment up for vote tomorrow. As a resident of the Palisades, I have found Uber to be the only cost effective and reliable private transportation method available to me (and I'm certainly not alone). Taxis consistently refuse to either take residents home from downtown/other locales if they live in farther flung areas of the city...or fail to show up in the first place when ordered via phone to one's home. I find it rather telling that Uber has had the highest uptake in its entire national network in DC...a city plagued by a revoltingly inept taxi system the likes of which I have never seen or experienced. Residents are fed up...and Uber has provided an alternative that has been incredibly popular - good for them for identifying a business opportunity and seizing on it. Would you bring up for vote some type of movie ticket hike for theaters that provided better service at a comparable (or even slightly higher) price to larger movie theaters? Doubtful.

The taxi companies do not need to be protected...they need to be prompted to provide better service. Make sure this happens and abandon this ridiculous pursuit against Uber. Thank you.

My best,  
Adam Ozmer

**From:** [Corinne Lane](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:11 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I have lived in your ward for the past four years, and have really enjoyed working and living in DC. I am an attorney, I work long hours, and am usually calling a cab at 1:00 am or so to get home.

The number of a times that (a) cabs wouldn't arrive, because they would take another fare up the street, (b) would take another fare, and then come and pick me up, often 30 to 40 minutes later, is startling, or © would take a slow route to increase the fare if I wasn't paying attention, cannot be counted. Moreover, a majority of the cab drivers in this city talk on cell phones incessantly. They text or type in numbers as well. And I have literally changed trip arrival times to Union Station because living on the Hill, a cab driver will not take you without having other people in the taxi.

Uber has been the greatest new company that I've experienced in the District in the last several years. I cannot stress what I fantastic, safe, transparent service that they provide. It has improved aspects of my life: less stress in getting home, more hours of sleep.

Unlike Virginia, we don't have Envirocab, we are stuck with some of the rudest drivers, in some of the oldest cabs.

Please do not pass laws that prohibits Uber from doing business in the District. This company would not be as successful as it is if the cabs in the District are not as awful as they are. Passing laws that will continue to let the cab companies and the cab drivers operate at the current service level would set as bad of a policy example as some state prohibiting schools from teaching critical thinking because then a child might not have the same views in 10 years as his or her parent. People should be able to make well informed choices about what products to use or ideas to have. Passing laws prohibiting companies that do good work from operating in the District because the taxi companies don't want the competition isn't a step forward for the District.

Thanks for your time,  
Corinne Lane

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Colleen Phalen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:20 PM

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I'm writing to plead that you do not pass the Uber restrictive law

The DC City Council informed Uber that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form.

The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently you are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price.

It's so hard to believe that you would put such restrictions in place. It's your job to fight for the citizens of this city, not for a special interest group of cab drivers. Every other city in America has worked with Uber and not enacted such arcane and UnAmerican laws.

Colleen Phalen



Washington, DC



**From:** [Caroline Gould](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:11 PM

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Uber is safe and reliable transportation. In DC, as a woman, I am often made uncomfortable by taxi drivers. They are rude, ask for my phone number, make lewd comments, and attempt to overcharge. This is all without any form of accountability. Unlike Uber, I cannot rely on peer reviews or being assured that there is a direct line to management that is not cluttered in bureaucracy and apathy.

The DC cab system is outdated and overpriced. As a District resident, I love using Uber for its professional, clean, and reliable service. Do not take this away from me. DC is hard enough to travel around as it is. I do not appreciate my representative trying to make it even more difficult and impede my choices.

**From:** [Meredith Cain](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:59 PM

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Dear Congressman Wells,

I beg you to please strike down the Uber amendment. Uber is a reliable and safe alternative to taxis in DC. I have had uncomfortable and unreliable service in DC cabs for years, and am so pleased to have Uber as an alternative. It is already more expensive than a cab, which is unfortunate. But to price it out of people's realm of possibility is completely unfair.

I'm tired of cabbies who don't know where they are going. Who refuse to take me to my home (near H St). Who show up more than 30 minutes late to an early am pickup (4:30) to the airport. Whose dispatchers won't answer the phone. Who don't honor reservations. Who don't pick you up when called. Honestly, cabs in DC are completely abysmal. Not to mention filthy, and sketchy. I've had too many acquaintances claim assault, etc. And with the recent hike in fares, they merely are continuing the same level of service as before. Most won't take a credit card. Many won't take you to many destinations within the city. If something is left in a DC taxicab, you'll never see it again (as my poor brother experienced when he left his iPhone in a cab and the cabbie refused to return it). They charge fake surcharges, even after the price structure change.

Uber is well-organized and simple to use. They have done a wonderful job of making themselves readily available and a joy to use. Their app is something that DC cabs should be using. They enable easy use of credit cards, meaning I don't have to carry around cash in a city that I don't feel comfortable carrying cash in.

I hope you will recognize that Uber is an important business that really should light a fire under cab companies in DC to get their acts together and provide better, more reliable, safer service to DC residents. Because nothing else so far seems to have worked (including the recent fare hikes), this is probably the incentive that they need.

Sincerely,

Meredith Cain



**From:** [Kim Peyser](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:59 PM

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Council Member Wells,

I live in City Vista in your district.

I very much hope that you will not vote in favor of legislation that will make it illegal for uber to lower it's prices.

Unfortunately, the cab companies in DC are not reliable. You cannot rely on one if you need to call and schedule ahead of time to get to the airport -- sometimes they will simply not show up. If you're in hurry, you can't rely on dc cabs either. Not to mention the regular fights I have with them about illegally attempting to continue charging the gas surcharge.

On top of this, WMATA clearly has it's issues as well. Uber is a good alternative for a high demand situation. If it is made cost prohibitive, they will end up going out of business in the district.

Thanks for your consideration and your service.

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Kim Peyser  


**From:** [Alden Schacher](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:57 PM

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Dear Councilmember Catania,

Please do not approve the Uber fare language. It penalizes DC residents/taxpayers by taking away green transportation options and forcing us to use unclean, unsafe and unreliable DC taxis.

Sincerely,  
Alden Schacher  
DC resident



**From:** [Patrick Newton](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:35 PM

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Good Afternoon:

The D.C. cab experience is an embarrassment. Please strike down any amendment in council that would set a minimum fare for Uber Cars. I cannot get a cab to take me to Eastern Market from the NW. Uber is always there for me. Eastern Market is changing and many if not most of your constituents there want the Uber option. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Patrick Newton



Washington, D.C.  
20003

**From:** [Todd Vassar](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:39 PM

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Councilman Wells,

Please do not vote against Uber tomorrow. They are an incredible alternative to the consistently awful DC Cab service I have received for the past 9 years. Particularly in Ward 6, it is very hard to get a cab. Friends have declined many visits citing this reason and I have experienced it for myself.

My first use of Uber was incredible. No attempts to screw me or take the slowest route to my destination. No attitude. No asking me where I was going and then telling me "no." No constant chatter by the driver on his cell phone. Instead, I received a polite driver in what appeared to be a safe, clean car with functional air conditioning.

Why would the DC council want to deny it's citizens this option? Please allow your constituents an alternative to the nightmare of DC cabs.

Thanks,

--

Todd Vassar, Realtor  
Lindsay Reishman Real Estate

 (cell)  
[www.toddvassar.com](http://www.toddvassar.com)

I'm never too busy for any of your referrals

**From:** [Andrew Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED] [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I live in Bethesda and work for a well known start here in DC. I am a huge uber advocate. I can not tell you how dangerous cabs are in my eyes for DC. Until you can "regulate" them, increase safety, and they take credit cards, anything to curb how Uber has changed my life (for the better) is absurd. Has an uber ever threatened to drop me and a girl off in the middle of the road because they don't want to drive to my house, NO. Has uber ever tried to charge my card/cash for more then they should have, no. 5x the price for an uber, however, is absurd. I can tell you this. I spend THOUSANDS of dollars a month at DC bars, restaurants, etc. If I had to choose to stay local in Bethesda because I no longer wanted to pay for a private jet priced-limo ride, believe me, I would. And you would be loosing out on at least thousands of my tax dollars for the year.

Don't be naive. DC cabs are TERRIBLE. Let a successful start up capitalize where you have FAILED. They are doing your work for you and pleasing DC people.

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Regards,

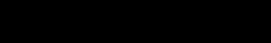
Andrew Lynch

**From:** [Alden Schacher](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:36 PM

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Dear Councilmember Wells,

Please do not approve the Uber fare language. It penalizes DC residents/taxpayers by taking away green transportation options and forcing us to use unclean, unsafe and unreliable DC taxis.

Sincerely,  
Alden Schacher  
DC resident  




**From:** [Lenwood Brooks](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:45 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

As a registered voter in your ward, I will be closely following your vote on the Uber amendment tomorrow. It is very hard to get a cab in my neighborhood in Ward 6--even when I call ahead--and I find it offensive that some on the council want to prohibit Uber from lowering prices.

Regardless of what you decide, I will always support you because you are an honorable public official. Even when I have disagreed with you in the past--such as the bag tax--you proved to be right in the long run.

Thank you for your time.

Lenwood Brooks

[REDACTED]

WDC 20002

**From:** [Alden Schacher](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:26 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown,

Please do not approve the Uber fare language. It penalizes DC residents/taxpayers by taking away green transportation options and forcing us to use unclean, unsafe and unreliable DC taxis.

Sincerely,  
Alden Schacher  
DC resident



**From:** [Claffee, Scott A.](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:57 PM

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DC Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would set a pricing floor for the Uber car service. I say this with all sincerity: Uber is the best thing that has happened to this city in the last two years. The taxi cab system in D.C. is a mess, and I appreciate that the Council is attempting to take steps to improve it. However, any action taken by the city should not also hinder the ability for entrepreneurs like Uber to maintain a viable alternative to using metered cabs. Unlike D.C. cabs, Uber is reachable, predictable, dependable, clean, effective, accountable, and surprisingly affordable. Rather than make it harder for Uber to experiment in the free market, the Council should be looking at ways to support Uber, and indeed to make it easier for other like-minded companies to provide other alternatives. Competition ends up benefitting consumers and, I would argue, will end up forcing D.C. cabs to improve as well. Unless you would prefer the current taxi system to remain the embarrassment that it currently is, I urge you to drop the anti-competitive Uber amendment and work with the company and others to foster a robust market for alternative transportation options.

Best regards,  
Scott Claffee  
Resident of Ward 6

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**Scott A. Claffee**

Mayer Brown LLP

(ph)

(fx)

<http://www.mayerbrown.com/whitecollardefensecompliance/>

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**From:** [cbudd](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:55 PM

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Hi David:

I just wanted to express my opposition to the minimum fare language for alternative taxi transportation. The uber experience is high quality, reliable, and makes payment easy. If the taxi companies want to make a change, they can start by matching service and convenience.

Thanks:

Christopher Budd (aka Pastor Prime!)

Christopher Budd, LEED AP  
*Principal*

**STUDIOS** *architecture*

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Please note my new email address: [REDACTED]

1625 M St. NW ~ Washington DC 20036

[REDACTED] *direct*

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

**From:** [Sriram Chandrasekar](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53:36 PM

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Hi Tommy

I am extremely concerned about the proposed minimum fare rule in the upcoming uber amendment. Why would the council feel that people are best served by having an alternative transportation service that costs 5 times!! the taxi rate? Uber provides a fantastic service and I was really looking forward to their lower cost service. The fact that they were all going to be hybrid vehicles makes the service that much better. Please make sure that the amendment does not pass tomorrow.

**From:** [Van Arsdall, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:53:01 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

I am a registered voter. I am also a strong supporter of the Uber car service trying to operate in the District of Columbia. I have been following in the news the difficulties Uber has been having trying to operate in District. Uber operates a convenient, quality service and should be allowed to operate and provide lower cost services. The quality of the taxi cab services in the District has been in steady decline over the 12 years I have lived in Washington. I strongly encourage you to support Uber allow competition to flourish. Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment up for consideration before the council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Arsdall

**From:** [Brock Boland](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:52:19 PM

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Mr. Wells—

I recently moved to Adam's Morgan, but lived for the four years prior in Ward 6, so I hope you'll still give my opinion some consideration.

I understand that the council will be voting on an amendment tomorrow that would hamstring Uber's ability to operate at competitive rates. While I don't know all the ins and outs of existing taxi regulation, it seems absurd to me that a private company is being penalized—and that their drivers have been harassed and fined—just because of the lobbying weight of the taxi industry.

Clearly, the taxi services in this town have not been serving the needs and wants of the market, or there wouldn't be any demand for Uber at all. I for one love having Uber as an option, because I'm tired of dealing with DC taxis: on the occasions that I've called for a cab, none has arrived, and even when I flag one down on the street, I've occasionally been refused service based on my destination.

If the cab companies are so afraid of the competition, I hope that you'll urge them to improve their service before worrying so much about competitors, and vote against this minimum fare amendment.

Thank you,

Brock Boland  


**From:** [Van Arsdall, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:51:48 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown,

I am a registered voter. I am also a strong supporter of the Uber car service trying to operate in the District of Columbia. I have been following in the news the difficulties Uber has been having trying to operate in District. Uber operates a convenient, quality service and should be allowed to operate and provide lower cost services. The quality of the taxi cab services in the District has been in steady decline over the 12 years I have lived in Washington. I strongly encourage you to support Uber allow competition to flourish. Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment up for consideration before the council. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Arsdall



**From:** [Blair, Robert @ Washington DC](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:51:31 PM

---

As a resident of DC I implore you to not vote against Uber. Citizens need options, not just told they have to take taxi's. Uber is a viable alternative and shouldn't be shut down. Do the right thing.

Bobby Blair | [CBRE, Inc.](#) | [Brokerage Services](#)  
750 9th Street, NW, Suite 900 | Washington, DC 20001  
T [REDACTED] | F [REDACTED] | C [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | [www.cbre.com](http://www.cbre.com)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:09:24 PM

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This mind boggling to me, that the city of Washington DC Is willing to shutdown a company that wants to put out a better product for a reasonable price. In order to protect a sub par , broken, inefficient taxi situation. I use uber because I tired of waiting in the middle of winter or in the scorching heat of the summer waiting for a cab. Only to have a cabby refuse to take me somewhere. And certain parts of this city u can't find a cab, and good luck calling one to come and get you. I can't count how many times I have gotten into a cab and laughed to myself, when the ID of cabby looks nothing like the person driving the cab. Let alone how filthy and disgusting the taxies, and their drivers can be. So if the city doesn't want to do there job and regulate the taxi industry and demand that they put out a better product. Don't punish über and the people that use it, because they want a better product for the money they spend!! Pretty sure that's what this country is supposed to be about. If u work harder than the next guy and you put out a better product you should be rewarded not punished!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:09:00 PM

---

This mind boggling to me, that the city of Washington DC Is willing to shutdown a company that wants to put out a better product for a reasonable price. In order to protect a sub par , broken, inefficient taxi situation. I use uber because I tired of waiting in the middle of winter or in the scorching heat of the summer waiting for a cab. Only to have a cabby refuse to take me somewhere. And certain parts of this city u can't find a cab, and good luck calling one to come and get you. I can't count how many times I have gotten into a cab and laughed to myself, when the ID of cabby looks nothing like the person driving the cab. Let alone how filthy and disgusting the taxies, and their drivers can be. So if the city doesn't want to do there job and regulate the taxi industry and demand that they put out a better product. Don't punish über and the people that use it, because they want a better product for the money they spend!! Pretty sure that's what this country is supposed to be about. If u work harder than the next guy and you put out a better product you should be rewarded not punished!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:07:10 PM

---

This mind boggling to me, that the city of Washington DC Is willing to shutdown a company that wants to put out a better product for a reasonable price. In order to protect a sub par , broken, inefficient taxi situation. I use uber because I tired of waiting in the middle of winter or in the scorching heat of the summer waiting for a cab. Only to have a cabby refuse to take me somewhere. And certain parts of this city u can't find a cab, and good luck calling one to come and get you. I can't count how many times I have gotten into a cab and laughed to myself, when the ID of cabby looks nothing like the person driving the cab. Let alone how filthy and disgusting the taxies, and their drivers can be. So if the city doesn't want to do there job and regulate the taxi industry and demand that they put out a better product. Don't punish über and the people that use it, because they want a better product for the money they spend!! Pretty sure that's what this country is supposed to be about. If u work harder than the next guy and you put out a better product you should be rewarded not punished!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:39:09 AM

---

Please do not vote against ubers pricing policies and ability to do business in DC as they do elsewhere. Uber has been fantastic and I'm very happy to have a cab alternative.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:38:16 AM

---

Please do not vote against ubers pricing policies and ability to do business in DC as they do elsewhere. Uber has been fantastic and I'm very happy to have a cab alternative.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:34:27 AM

---

Please do not vote against ubers pricing policies and ability to do business in DC as they do elsewhere. Uber has been fantastic and I'm very happy to have a cab alternative.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tracee Wagner](#)  
To: [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
Subject: Über  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:49:25 AM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

**This is a great app and makes travel through the city much more bearable. Why do you want to Put them out of business?**

Tracee Wagner  
Director of Sales  
TrialWorks Case Management Software

[www.trialworks.com](http://www.trialworks.com)

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Mark Flannery](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:26:19 AM

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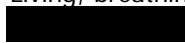
Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Greetings Mr. Catania

I urge you to act to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Having safe and affordable transportation options in DC is important for all of its residents, not to mention in the interests of the free market.

-----

Sincerely,  
Mark Flannery  
Living, breathing, voting DC resident  


-----  
Owner - The Big Board DC  
421 H St. NE  
[www.thebigboarddc.com](http://www.thebigboarddc.com)  
[facebook.com/thebigboarddc](https://facebook.com/thebigboarddc)  
[twitter.com/thebigboarddc](https://twitter.com/thebigboarddc)  


**From:** [Mark Flannery](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:25:20 AM

---


Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Greetings Mr. Wells,

I urge you to act to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

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[www.thebigboarddc.com](http://www.thebigboarddc.com)  
[facebook.com/thebigboarddc](https://facebook.com/thebigboarddc)  
[twitter.com/thebigboarddc](https://twitter.com/thebigboarddc)  


**From:** [Mark Flannery](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:22:32 AM

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Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Greetings Mr. Brown

I urge you to act to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Having safe and affordable transportation options in DC is important for all of its residents, not to mention in the interests of the free market.

-----

Sincerely,  
Mark Flannery  
Living, breathing, voting DC resident  
[REDACTED]

-----

Owner - The Big Board DC  
421 H St. NE  
[www.thebigboarddc.com](http://www.thebigboarddc.com)  
[facebook.com/thebigboarddc](https://facebook.com/thebigboarddc)  
[twitter.com/thebigboarddc](https://twitter.com/thebigboarddc)  
[REDACTED]

.....

[www.thebigboarddc.com](http://www.thebigboarddc.com)  
[facebook.com/thebigboarddc](https://facebook.com/thebigboarddc)  
[twitter.com/thebigboarddc](https://twitter.com/thebigboarddc)  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Elizabeth Jarvis](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:06:04 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy the benefits of a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for the services they provide.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Jarvis

DC Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Elizabeth Jarvis](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:05:08 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy the benefits of a similar service here in DC.

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Sincerely

Elizabeth Jarvis

DC Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Elizabeth Jarvis](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:03:25 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy the benefits of a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for the services they provide.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Jarvis

DC Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Pinder, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:39:23 PM

---

Dear Council Member Catania:

As I have written you before, taxi service in DC is ludicrously bad, in no small part because of the ineptitude of the Taxi Commission. I understand a bill that would handicap the legitimate alternative, Über, is about to be considered and, sparing you a great deal of adjectives and nouns, I urge you to vote against that legislative proposal in its current or any other form. I don't drive. I use a cane. Sometimes I have to wait longer than an hour if I call a cab or a half hour to hail one only to find crummy cars and drivers who have no idea how to find any address outside downtown. Über has none of those problems. Don't--please don't--interfere with them. Perhaps if Uber starts giving the regular cabs real competition they will shape up even if the taxi commission doesn't make them.

Thank you

Joe Pinder



--jp

--jp

**From:** [Ben Champa](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:09:32 PM

---

Dear Councilman Brown,

I am writing you to ask that you to support the efforts to strike the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment." I am a ten year resident of Capitol Hill and sometimes user of transportation provided through the Uber service, I feel that the city should encourage these types of innovative transportation solutions instead of continuing to support a broken taxi system. I have found Uber to be a helpful and reliable form of transportation which unfortunately is not always the case with the cab service. Beside the normal issues I have experienced with cab drivers, which have been detailed in the media, I find them unreliable when we need them the most. Even when calling for a cab the night before, they often are late and sometimes do not show for early morning airport runs. When trying to catch a 6am flight, metro is not an option.

It is clear the current taxi system is broken and needs serious reform. Therefore it is disappointing to see them continually propped up by the city government. Please work with the other members of the Council to ensure Uber, and what will no doubt be others like them soon, will remain a choice for residents of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Champa



Washington, DC 20003



**From:** [John Risch](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:02:16 PM

---

Please vote no on the Uber issue.

John Risch  
Alternate National Legislative Director  
United Transportation Union  
304 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003-1147

 Office

**From:** [John Risch](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:01:09 PM

---

Please vote no on the Uber issue

John Risch  
Alternate National Legislative Director  
United Transportation Union  
304 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003-1147

 Office

**From:** [John Risch](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:58:46 PM

---

Please vote no on the Uber issue

John Risch  
Alternate National Legislative Director  
United Transportation Union  
304 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003-1147

 Office

**From:** [Jon Lieber](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:58:50 PM

---

Tommy - as a Ward 6 resident who doesn't use Über, I am nonetheless outraged at the notion the DC Council might vote to prop up their prices. If what I have read on the über website is true (<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/strike-down-the-minimum-fare/>), it is very disappointing that the Council would put the needs of an entrenched and low performing incumbent (DC's current cab fleet is an embarrassment to the city) over the needs of the public to have access to an innovative new service that has been in high demand since its inception.

I don't know the status of this proposal but if you have the chance I would hope that you would vote to strike the language creating a punitively high minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles. There is simply no reason for this language to exist except to deny Dc residents access to this high-performing, convenient, and cost effective alternative.

Thank you.

Jon Lieber  
[REDACTED]  
Washington DC 20002

**From:** [Michael Ulrich](#)  
**To:** [Paul Cooper](#)  
**Cc:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:56:47 PM

---

And her lady ship seconds this motion! Note opposing this will play well in (gay) Peoria

M

Michael Ulrich Ph.D.  
Director  
NYU Washington, DC  
[REDACTED]

On Jul 9, 2012, at 8:25 PM, Paul Cooper <[REDACTED]> wrote:

- > Council Member Wells,
- > Several friends have contacted me to express concern about a planned vote to set a price floor for Über taxi service in DC, and I share their opposition to this bill. The DC taxi system doesn't need protection -- it needs competition. And letting Über set its own minimum rates is a good way to guarantee healthy competition that can only benefit DC consumers.
- >
- > Please vote no on the Über amendment.
- >
- > Sent from Paul Cooper's iPhone 4.2
- > [REDACTED]
- > Get facilitation tips & ideas on Twitter @ DCFacilitator

**From:** [Paul Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:25:38 PM

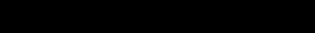
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Council Member Wells,

Several friends have contacted me to express concern about a planned vote to set a price floor for Über taxi service in DC, and I share their opposition to this bill. The DC taxi system doesn't need protection - it needs competition. And letting Über set its own minimum rates is a good way to guarantee healthy competition that can only benefit DC consumers.

Please vote no on the Uber amendment.

Sent from Paul Cooper's iPhone 4.2

  
Get facilitation tips & ideas on Twitter @ DCFacilitator

**From:** [Miah](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:12:00 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber ammendment.

Jeremiah



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Nicholas Donohue](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - Council vote  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:31:47 PM

---

Council Member Brown - My name is Nick Donohue and I am a constituent. I live on the 2600 block of 15th Street NW. Two years ago I moved from Arlington to the District for a better quality of life - a significant portion of that was related to having more transportation options to get around. One of these options is Uber. This choice was not made lightly - as DC's income tax is 2% higher than Virginia's but I found the benefits to outweigh the costs at the time. If the council were to start putting barriers in place of transportation options that would make me reconsider my choice.

I have reviewed the language of the proposed amendment to the Taxicab portions of DC code and strongly encourage you to oppose the language that establishes minimum fare for Uber vehicles. The provisions of the amendment appear arbitrary and I have not seen any studies or other materials that would justify establishing such a rate. More importantly the other language of the bill requires that regulations for sedans be established within 1 year and that the rates be higher than those of taxis. These provisions seem sufficient to protect taxis - and will allow for thoughtful, analysis based rules to be put in place.

Please do not vote to for the amendment as drafted.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Nick





**From:** [Bridget Hankin](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Stefan Hankin](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - don't pass bill that will set minimums on non taxi ride programs  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:54:46 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

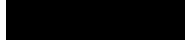
As a lifelong district resident, and ward 6 resident and voter for the past 6 years I am writing to you because i am concerned about the legislation before the council concerning car services. I am on vacation in Maine as I type this but this is too important to ignore.

As a small business owner and mother services like car2go and uber have allowed me the security and flexibility to work and raise my children in the city. Uber offers a reliable and affordable alternative to taxis that can be scheduled at any time day or night. The uber drivers are courteous and their cars are clean, reliable and they don't require me to carry cash all the time. Recently i had to work until 2am and an uber driver picked me up and carried my bags to my front door --- no extra charge. I can schedule the cars on my mobile device and they give me exact times for pick up, the name of my driver before i even order a car.

DC cabs could be more competitive by offering similar mobile services and better fleets and drivers but they do not have to because whenever there is legitimate competition to their terrible service they lobby the council to legislate a business advantage or tax in their favor. Please do not let this happen again. I have been singing the praises of DC urban living to friends all over the country and include the bikeshare, uber and car2go as some of the very best things to happen to urban families in the past few years.

Please do not support mandates on base fares for uber or any additional tax on their services. If DC cab drivers want to compete they should do so on their own with better service than they currently provide.

Bridget Daly Hankin



**From:** [POTTER JONATHAN](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - Minimum Fare Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:09 PM

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Dear Members of the DC Council:

In January 2012 I rented 4000 square feet in a Metro Center Office building where more than a dozen people now work. We use Uber and we take taxis, depending on circumstances.

Tomorrow you will vote on the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment. The minimum fare language is anti-consumer and merely is protecting a taxi industry that has a history of treating consumer unfairly by opposing meters and resisting laws (like that in NYC) to require that taxis be clean, safe and less than 10 years old.

Why would you even consider legislation intended to stifle competition by raising prices? This proposal is outrageous and you should be ashamed if it passes. Would you require new competitors in the book-selling industry to raise prices? Did you require Amazon.com to raise prices in order to sell to DC residents or businesses? Did you require FedEx to raise prices in order to ship packages for DC residents? What makes Uber different?

Please do not respond to my email unless you are planning to do the right thing by DC businesses and residents and employees.

Thank you.

Jon Potter



**From:** [Leslie Maria](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - not a threat to DC cabs  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:56:20 AM

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I have written several of your colleagues and my message to you is the same. Please do not curb Uber's service in any way. Uber is not a threat to DC cabs; it is an alternative to use when, for reasons explained below, cabs aren't an option.

DC cabs refuse to take credit cards, refuse to drive passengers into Arlington (or virginia generally) and can be unavailable a lot of the time. It is also virtually impossible to call a DC cab - v. grabbing one on the street. I default to Red Top of Arlington when I am going to Arlington, but Uber is also available when Red Top is not. I prefer to pay cab rates, but when I can't get a cab, it's helpful to have Uber around.

I can promise you that if I could a) call a DC cab to pick me up and b) pay with a CC, I would ALWAYS choose that option over Uber. Even without the CC option, I would go DC cab. And this is despite the fact that most of the cabs look like hell, are dirty and a ride typically involves a song and dance with the driver to get him to put the windows up because if it's under 95 degrees, we're going gas saving sans a/c. Clean up your act and you won't have to worry about Uber.

**From:** [Jeff Curry](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - please support  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:44:21 AM

---

Hi David - hope you are well!

Quick note to encourage you to support Uber in upcoming vote today. A user of the Uber service for the last year in various markets, I want to have this choice among my city's transport options. So many good things have happened recently with the bike sharing and Car2Go programs and Uber fits into the category of mobility options that your constituents deserve to have.


I've worked in Silicon Valley and now work at Audi of America in future mobility planning (EV's and sustainability) so I have monitored this market for services like car sharing and crowd-source mobility for some time. DC residents deserve to have access to services like Uber as a world-class city where innovation is valued.

With DC long having one of the worst taxi systems among major cities in the country (or world for that matter!), I can understand the taxi commission's resistance to change, but the reality is that competition from a better product (rather than artificial regulation) is the single best way to force market change - it's capitalism and democracy at work. Cronyism and protectionism in the taxi commission has long given us an inferior product and this great city deserves much better! You only have to visit Tokyo or London or many other major cities in the world to see how awful our system is - and it shouldn't be the first impression given by our nation's capitol to visitors or forced on residents.

Thanks for listening and for considering support for Uber to bring fair competition to the market.

Best regards,

JC  
Jeff Curry

  
mbl: 

**From:** [Diani Diaz](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER - STRIKE DOWN MINIMUM FARE  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:07:48 AM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

About 4 months ago a friend of mine were out in DC for dinner and drinks. We were out late enough to have missed the final metro so we opted to take a taxi home. A few minutes into our cab ride we realize that our taxi does not accept credit cards. After a night out, we had no cash left so we informed our cab driver that we needed to stop at an ATM in order to pay the fare. For some reason unknown to us, the cab driver interpreted this as we were not going to pay the fare. He yelled at us, called us prostitutes, and locked us in the taxi while he sped down the streets of the city to Chinatown where he was going to "turn us into the police." After a few minutes of explaining the ordeal we just went through with the police officer, the cab driver got his fare (as we had intended to pay) and drove away. My friend and I were shaken up by this event and vowed to never take another cab in the city again.

Luckily, shortly after is when we discovered Uber. They are professional, reliable, and safe. I know that I can go out in the city and be able to enjoy a night out with my friends without having to worry about my ride home. Because I live in Silver Spring, it is **always** difficult to find a cab to take me home. Many cabs refuse to drive out to Maryland because they will not get a return fare. That is absurd! Uber however, will gladly take me anywhere I need to go and they are so friendly about it.

As a single working professional woman living in the DC metro area, I ask that you please allow Uber to continue to operate as it has been and I ask that you strike down the minimum fare requirement. This is a great city to live in but the public transportation definitely needs work. Uber is a reliable, high quality, and safe alternative to the taxi. It's unfair that legislation feels that we need to be rich in order to get a safe ride home.

Regards,  
Diani Diaz  
An EXTREMELY satisfied Uber customer

**From:** [Diani Diaz](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - STRIKE DOWN MINIMUM FARE  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:02:29 AM

---

Dear Mr.Brown,

About 4 months ago a friend of mine were out in DC for dinner and drinks. We were out late enough to have missed the final metro so we opted to take a taxi home. A few minutes into our cab ride we realize that our taxi does not accept credit cards. After a night out, we had no cash left so we informed our cab driver that we needed to stop at an ATM in order to pay the fare. For some reason unknown to us, the cab driver interpreted this as we were not going to pay the fare. He yelled at us, called us prostitutes, and locked us in the taxi while he sped down the streets of the city to Chinatown where he was going to "turn us into the police." After a few minutes of explaining the ordeal we just went through with the police officer, the cab driver got his fare (as we had intended to pay) and drove away. My friend and I were shaken up by this event and vowed to never take another cab in the city again.

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Regards,  
Diani Diaz  
An EXTREMELY satisfied Uber customer

**From:** [Gareth Moore](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - Strike Down the MINIMUM FARE Language  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:16:13 AM

---

Dear Councilmember,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy the benefits of a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for the services they provide.

Sincerely,

Gareth

---

GARETH H. MOORE

MOBILE: (202) 

**From:** [Penny Lee](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:56:22 AM

---

Michael:

I wish I was writing about playing golf at RTJ or battling on Hannity but instead I'm writing in support of Uber. I just left a message with Kevin in your office as well. I find Uber to be a great alternate choice for transportation in the city. I live at 12<sup>th</sup> and D, NE – an area that is very difficult to find roaming cabs so Uber allows me another option to accommodate my needs. I do not use them exclusively and still support and use DC Cabs 85% of the time. The current uber amendment setting a minimum price is too punitive and would likely threaten their existence in the city –I urge you to vote against.

Thank you for your consideration and hope you are well.

Warmest regards,  
Penny Lee

Penny Lee  
President  
Venn Strategies, LLC  
805 15th Street, NW  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20005

 cell



**From:** [Sean Wieland](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Todd, Brandon \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Christopher Rybicki](#)  
**Subject:** Uber - Washington, D.C.  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:52:34 AM

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Über DC Rates:

<https://www.uber.com/cities/washington-dc#cities>

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Scott Talan](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber & DC Taxi Vote  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:48:16 AM

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Councilmember Catania

I trust you will vote against having min fare. Uber and other potential transportation options should be welcomed not hindered.

Scott Talan

Wash DC 20009

--

@Talan on Twitter  
Scott Talan on Linked In  
'Talanism' Channel on YouTube

**From:** [Graham W. Jenkins](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber & Transportation in General  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:49:23 AM

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Sir (and very respectfully to all the other Councilmembers CC'ed herein);

When I moved to the District - specifically, Columbia Heights (Ward 1) - last fall, I came to an urban location with all the businesses, nightlife, and transit (and yes, nuisances, noise and annoyances) that go along with urban life. Part of the reason I chose to live where I did was because of the proximity to Metro, only a block and a half from the apartment I now live in on 13th Street. The commute itself is very short - seven stops from Columbia Heights to the Pentagon. Of course, I had to make a strange change at Mt. Vernon Square because bizarrely, it is only during **rush hour** that access to yellow line trains north of the Convention Center is non-existent. This was fine, as long as Metro could adhere to its reasonably-close of timing of a yellow line train running roughly two minutes after a green deposited me at Mt. Vernon.

Let me just say that since January of 2012, that timing has not been close, nor has the commute been smooth, nor has getting around in Washington DC been easily in any sense of the word. Metro-wise, just this morning it took my train 35 minutes to go the four stops from Columbia Heights to Gallery Place. I have been delayed in getting to work by over an hour on several occasions due to offloads and other preventable incidents in the Metro system. And it's increasingly intolerable. I am fortunate enough to have a salaried job that allows me to live in the District, but only because I don't have to handle the burdens and costs that come with car ownership. I simply cannot have my commutes constantly delayed - and that's only part of it. The weekend service that runs in the District is woefully inadequate to be relied on, but an increasing number of people - especially young people like myself - **have** to rely on it to get around. But when 12-minute headways are a service **maximum**, it takes absolutely forever to get anywhere whether during the day or going out at night, and so I find myself more and more staying home. In general, there are some solid improvements Metro could make with relatively minimal investment, and if you'll excuse some policy wonkery for a few minutes, I'd like to list them:

1. Upgrade the power substations across the entire Metro system to handle 8-car trains, on all trains, at all times.
2. Procure enough rolling stock and/or operators to run 8-car trains, on all trains, at all time.
3. Procure enough rolling stock to run all Yellow Line trains all the way to Fort Totten (or even Greenbelt) at all times.
4. Procure enough rolling stock to replace every single 1000-series car (and ideally every 5000-series car) across the entire system.
5. Procure enough rolling stock to run at the 90-120 second headways that the entire Metro system was designed for, and at sub-10-minute headways even on weekends.

These would go a great ways towards alleviating at least some of the stress

currently felt by both commuters and residents. I understand that buying more subway cars requires an initial capital investment, but that is the worst pain of it - operating costs once the cars have been purchased will be much less, and I guarantee you reflected in higher ridership.

But Metro aside, let's discuss taxis, because the more Metro service degrades, the more I find myself coming to rely on them. I have not taken a DC taxi since January, and I have no intention of doing so. Instead, I have relied on Uber for several reasons, most of which I'm sure you've heard, but which I wanted to reiterate here. They arrive on demand, when you need them, and without fail. Three times in the past few months I booked very early-morning taxis from different companies in DC and Virginia to get to Dulles and National airports. Only once did one arrive on-time and without my having to call a taxi company to ask where the cab was, only to be informed that they "had no reservation" in the system. I have not attempted since.

I also have not attempted to use a DC cab for any reasons whatsoever. They are difficult to find, much less flag, require me to have cash (cabs seem to be the **only** thing for which cash is actually required in this day and age) and have on more than one occasion driven off when I told them where I was headed.

I have never, **never** had any problems with Uber since that wonderful service began. Night after night it has saved me from being stranded at the Mark Center in Alexandria, or in Southeast late into the night after Metro stopped running, or when trying to get a ride from Union Station **just** after midnight. The latter is particularly instructive, as there was no shortage of normal cabs. What there **was** shortage of, however, were cabs that would a) take riders exactly where they wanted to go, b) accept cash, c) be courteous, professional, in good order, and d) that I could track while waiting for. The massive line, despite a police presence, was at the mercy of the cab drivers, who would only take passengers to where the drivers themselves wanted to go. That's not how any service, especially one that caters to customers, should operate. And that is why I have taken Uber and not DC taxis.

It's a shame that you have to legislate cab companies into competitiveness by mandating credit card readers (and imagine my shock when I learned that DC cabs have only had **meters** for **four years**). But if that's what's necessary, then do it; I'm all for it. At the same time, Uber has proven itself more than worthy of competing for my business, and it will continue to gain that business as long as DC cabs remain, to put it bluntly, awful. I am very pleased that the Council has opted to strip the Uber Amendments out of today's taxi legislation, allowing their low-cost Uber X service to begin operations here in the nation's capital. I would hope that we have heard the last of trying to restrict an actual, effective service.

Fix Metro. Let Uber thrive. That's what we need to get around in DC. Thank you very much for your time.

Very respectfully,  
Graham W. Jenkins

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

[Automatic Ballpoint](#)

**From:** [Peter La Fountain](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber (my personal experience)  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:08:17 PM

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Hi Tommy:

This is the first time I've written you about a DC government issue. I see that Uber has mobilized their supporters in their defense, and I want to express my support. I've been in DC for much of the past seven years. I'm a transplant. I've moved around and worked in politics, and no city has perfect transit infrastructure. But Tommy, the cabs here have been an awful experience.

Just some things I've personally experienced: 1) I've been regularly taken on circuitous routes on the Hill, nearly always forcing me to intervene to give directions; 2) I've been refused change (to prod me to give a higher tip -- and when I persisted, I was handed a fistful of nickels, dimes, and Ugandan coins); 3) I've been dragged by a cab in Thomas Circle in the snow, while trying to negotiate a reasonable fare to the Hill (seriously); 4) Back in the zone days, I was taken from 14th and K St to the Hall of States, and the driver just said "Ten bucks" and claimed the map had been changed. 5) I've been refused service to the Hill on more times than I can remember, once I'm in the cab, on the pretense that "oh no, I'm going home." Quite a few cabbies seem to be "going home" when I need a cab.

This is all anecdotal, but these are also not hallmarks of an efficient and reliable cab system. I tense up every time I need to hail a cab, wondering what kind of resistance or bile the cab driver will throw at me. It's not a pleasant experience. To some extent cabs are a luxury; but when work requires you to be on duty after the Metro closes (esp. on weekdays), then cabs are an essential part of our transit network.

Uber is trying to provide this professional and reliable service for DC residents. On the occasional time I need a cab, I always use them. I know I can depend on them. Are they a bit more expensive? Sure. And I really wish they weren't. But in contrast to the generally awful time I've had with DC cabs, I'll take it any day.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

Peter La Fountain  


**From:** [Emily Stampiglia](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Combs](#); [Jessica Porter](#); [Emily Stampiglia](#)  
**Subject:** Uber / Cabs in Washington DC  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:57:13 PM

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Dear City Council :

I am a 12+ year resident of Washington DC (Ward 2) and can't tell you how much I enjoy living in the city. I recently found Uber and am ecstatic about the level of service, ease of doing business, cleanliness of the vehicles, professionalism of the drivers and overall business model of the company. I cannot say ANY of those things about the regular cab operators in the metropolitan DC area. Cabs are typically filthy and stinky, drivers can be rude and it can take 30 minutes or more to get a cab after waiting 20 minutes or more on the phone to order one for a house pickup.

I am disappointed to learn that the Council is getting ready to vote tomorrow on a bill that would severely limit Uber as a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. How does it make sense to handicap a high quality service and therefore keep prices of transportation artificially high? The taxi industry has far too much influence if they are able to impact a well functioning marketplace by keeping out competition and therefore maintaining a monopoly offering far inferior services.

As an elected body, I would think you would be in support of Uber as well as the rollout of UberX which is an all hybrid fleet. If you haven't tried Uber, you should!

Please do not support the sedan minimums and allow Uber and UberX to continue to operate in the DC Metro area.

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>

Sincerely,  
Emily Stampiglia

([REDACTED])

**ORACLE**

Emily Stampiglia | Senior Director, Public Sector Hardware  
Phone: ([REDACTED])  
**Oracle** Public Sector  
1910 Oracle Way | Reston, VA 20190

**Hardware and Software, Engineered to Work Together**



**From:** [Thomas Jansen](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber / Taxis  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:21:03 AM

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Hello Councilmember Bowser,

As a long-time resident of DC who has lived elsewhere on and off for the past 5 years, I feel compelled to write to you, begging you to reject the DC Council's proposed "Uber Amendment."

Whenever I return home, I find myself consistently let down by DC's taxis. I have turned to Uber after using it frequently in different cities because I cannot be guaranteed safe, clean or reliable service from Washington's taxicabs.

Is it near-impossible to hail a taxi in Ward 4, where I spent much of my time, and calling a taxi is never a sure bet. The stronghold that DC's taxi cab coalition has over the Taxicab Commission indicative of the embarrassingly sorry state that Washington's politics and city council are in. I am glad to be represented by an upstanding council member such as you and hope that you can help right this situation.

To be a first-class city, Washington should have first-class facilities. Of course, I do not believe that that means we should put anyone out of a job or shut down an industry, but DC's taxicabs need some serious competition. It is not acceptable that visitors to our great city should have to take deteriorating cabs with occasionally unfriendly, if not hostile drivers (and of course without security partitions) and do not have the option to pay with credit cards.

Cities like New York and Philadelphia have somehow managed to offer credit card payment, reliable pick-ups, security partitions and a new, safe and clean cab fleet while maintaining a standard of living for their taxicab drivers. I feel strongly that this is because there is healthy competition.

Please do not forget as well that not only are many DC cab drivers Washingtonians, but also too their customers and drivers of the Uber-sourced black cabs. While we many not be an effective lobbying force, it is not fair that a small percentage of the population has such an over-sized influence which allows them to offer sub-par services at excessive prices.

Please take a stand on this issue. I have many a friend who has been shocked by the state of Washington's taxicabs and one called me just last week in tears, stranded at Union Station of all places, unable to secure a ride.

DC is going great places and there are many things that the Council can do to move us forward, but stifling competition and protecting an already embarrassingly awful industry is not one of them. Please reject the Uber Amendment.

Thank you for your time.



George Thomas Jansen



**From:** [Jen](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber = Love  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:06:53 PM

---

Dear Mr. Catania,

Please do not pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form. Do not enact a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

I love Uber. Unlike taxi cab service, this is a reliable, safe, affordable transportation alternative. Uber should be allowed to set their own pricing--let DC citizens decide what transportation to use and may the best service come out on top. That's one of the great things about America is that we can choose for ourselves. Please do not make that choice for us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

From: [Jen](#)  
To: [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
Subject: Uber = Love  
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:30 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells,

Please do not pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form. Do not enact a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

I love Uber. Unlike taxi cab service, this is a reliable, safe, affordable transportation alternative. Uber should be allowed to set their own pricing--let DC citizens decide what transportation to use and may the best service come out on top. That's one of the great things about America is that we can choose for ourselves. Please do not make that choice for us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Jen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber = Love  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:56 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

Please do not pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form. Do not enact a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

**I love Uber. Unlike taxi cab service, this is a reliable, safe, affordable transportation alternative. Uber should be allowed to set their own pricing--let DC citizens decide what transportation to use and may the best service come out on top. That's one of the great things about America is that we can choose for ourselves. Please do not make that choice for us.**

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Brian Smith](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Admendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:53:07 AM

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Hello Councilmembers,

Please strike down the Uber minimum fare language! It is a terrible addition to the bill.

The cabs in DC are a disgrace, old and dangerous cars, non-functioning AC. Lets not get started on trying to catch a cab to anywhere outside of NW, either the cab will just drive away, or won't unlock the car for you.

If this admenmant passes, there will be change in the counsel come next election.

Please don't make us pay more for Uber just to protect a taxi commission that is unable to provide baseline service to those in need of scheduling a taxi.

Put your constituents first!

Thank you,  
B S.  
15th St. NE

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Admendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:00:36 AM

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**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

This is an unfair practice on a startup and this type of political behavior stifles innovation!

Thank you,

Tyler Smith

**From:** [Beth Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Admendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:32:36 PM

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I am writing the members of the Council to ask that you remove the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment that you are voting on this week. As a user of this service and of the traditional taxi services in DC, I feel that this is a targeted attack on a service that is much needed in our city. Uber fares are already more expensive than cab fares, which makes it a premium service for the majority of its users. The minimum fare limit is excessive and will make the service too expensive for the majority of its users to justify. This is an obvious attack on an individual purveyor and once again shows that the DC Government and City Council are hostile to small businesses and the growth of these businesses in this city. As a former owner of multiple businesses in this city, I can attest to the sometimes impossible obstacles that the city puts in the way of businesses that are trying to compete and succeed here. Uber provides a much needed service that is lacking in our city and which you can find in almost every other major metropolitan city in this country. Instead of attacking a business that brings income and a much needed service to our city, maybe you should focus on modernizing the city's taxi industry and making it safer, easier to use and one that is actually representative of a world class destination that our city is to people all over the world. I use Uber because I am picked up at my home, taken where I want to go via the route I want to travel, in a clean safe vehicle with a driver who is not talking on the phone and trying to cheat me by taking the long route to up the metered fare and then arguing with me when I ask them to go a direct route, all the while in a cab that stinks and looks like it could fall apart at any minute.

Obviously you are more concerned about the cab companies than you are about the people who have to ride in them. I use cabs in other cities all the time, but I seldom use them here because it is more of a hassle than a convenience. Focus on changing that and leave Uber alone. Most people still use cabs and the few that use Uber probably would have drove instead of taking a cab in the first place, so you are looking a demographic that is not taking away from the business the cabs already have.

I hope you will remove the minimum fair language from the amendment and that you will refocus your energy on fixing and modernizing the existing cab system instead.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks!

Beth Hughes

[DCRealEstate.com](#)

[1405 Rhode Island Ave, NW](#)  
[Washington, DC 20005](#)

C) 

O) 

F) 

[DCMud.com](#)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Beth-Hughes-DC-Realtor/217538464946642>

Linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/beth-hughes/5/a09/12>

Twitter: BethHughesDCRE

Licensed in DC & MD

Kindly consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



**From:** [Mike Faley](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amdendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:36:04 AM

---

Mr. Brown,

I write as a concerned DC resident. The "Uber Amendment", being considered today, looks to set artificial price ceilings for an industry that has, by and large, been a sore point in DC's offerings as a major city. As a previous resident of Baltimore and New York City, DC has, by far, the worst taxi services to offer. The drivers are, at best, rude and overcharge. At worst, they have sexually assaulted individuals that I know on more than one occasion. DC is behind New York City in every facet of taxicab offerings, and even some Baltimore cabs offer credit card payments.

Uber has offered a new light to DC's taxi offerings. To see an amendment considered that, as far as I can tell, will do nothing but force DC residents to continue overpaying for taxi services, is a real shame. Please do whatever is possible to stop the passing of the Uber Amendment.

Mike Faley  


**From:** [Jon Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amedment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:01:38 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

I am a resident in Southeast DC, in your Ward 6. I wanted to write you to encourage you to PLEASE vote AGAINST the Uber Amendment that would raise fees on their service in the district. I have lived in this great city for over 10 years, the cabs continue to try and rip me off on a daily basis. The District should not punish a competitor whose customer service is 100x better than the taxi's and cabs of DC. Please vote against this amendment and let a business offer better service - the cab companies are not going to do it. They will simply keep trying to rip us off as often as they can. They also rip off tourists on a daily basis. I know many people who have visited me in DC who have been overcharged or taken to a wrong destination. It's time for this to stop. Please vote AGAINST the Uber Amendment tomorrow.

Thank you,

Jon Thompson

**From:** [Ben Champa](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:06:05 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

I am writing you to ask that you to support the efforts to strike the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment." I am a ten year resident of Capitol Hill and sometimes user of transportation provided through the Uber service, I feel that the city should encourage these types of innovative transportation solutions instead of continuing to support a broken taxi system. I have found Uber to be a helpful and reliable form of transportation which unfortunately is not always the case with the cab service. Beside the normal issues I have experienced with cab drivers, which have been detailed in the media, I find them unreliable when we need them the most. Even when calling for a cab the night before, they often are late and sometimes do not show for early morning airport runs. When trying to catch a 6am flight, metro is not an option.

It is clear the current taxi system is broken and needs serious reform. Therefore it is disappointing to see them continually propped up by the city government. Please work with the other members of the Council to ensure Uber, and what will no doubt be others like them soon, will remain a choice for residents of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Champa



Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Andrew Hartman](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:27 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Andrew Hartman](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:11 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Andrew Hartman](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Über Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:43 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Liz Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:36:17 PM

---

Hi Michael,

I am a DC resident and I love Uber. Please vote to allow Uber to operate with lower fares using hybrid vehicles. Hybrid vehicles are better for the city and DC residents deserve more affordable and reliable transportation options.

Thanks,

Liz Williamson



**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:02:56 PM

---

Thank you!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:04 PM, Lauren Forgie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001



**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:02:42 PM

---

Thank you!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:05 PM, Lauren Forgie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Chairman:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:02:18 PM

---

Thank you!

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:04 PM, Lauren Forgie <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Nathan Rodgers](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:08:41 PM

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To you all...

I am an American citizen currently in Europe and was in such disbelief about what I have heard about this proposed legislation that I tried calling several of your offices (Phil, Mary, Michael) to see if it was true. None of the offices answered my call which leads me to believe the following:

- A.) You were trying to pass this legislation
- B.) You are hearing a lot from people who don't agree with that option

Having spent an extensive amount of time overseas, I have had the opportunity to really see and understand what makes America such a wonderful country. I ask is that each of you carefully consider your position on this issue. Europe is a great place to visit, but I would never want to start a business here.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Rodgers

**From:** [Mike Reilly](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:28:19 PM

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Dear Gentlemen,

As a practicing physician in the District and 10+ year resident, My family continues to find enough reasons to fight the "inevitable" suburban migration that is incumbent upon so many of our peers with kids.

Perhaps the one thing in DC that has most improved our quality of life in this past year is Uber. It is incredibly well-run and it provides a level of accountability and amicability that is quite simply not present among DC taxi cabs. I see absolutely no reason to pass the Uber amendment, thwarting progress and allowing the taxi lobby to further hold DC residents hostage. I strongly urge you to fight the passage of this amendment.

Sincerely,  
Michael J. Reilly

[REDACTED]

--

Michael J. Reilly, M.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Georgetown University Hospital  
Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
Otolaryngology--Head & Neck Surgery  
3800 Reservoir Rd NW  
1st Floor Gorman Building  
Washington, DC 20007  
w [REDACTED]  
m [REDACTED]

**From:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:58:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Uber Amendment v2.doc](#)

---

Julie – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CM Cheh has committed to holding a hearing in September to move toward developing a consensus solution.

Let me know if this gives you adequate background, or if you have additional questions.

Kevin

**Kevin Stogner**  
General Counsel

Committee on Finance and Revenue  
The Honorable Jack Evans, Chair  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 114  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
[www.jackevans.org](http://www.jackevans.org)



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**From:** Julie Philp [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:25 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber amendment

That's encouraging, Schannette. Could you please send me that language? I would greatly appreciate it.

Julie

Sent from a mobile device - please excuse typos.

On Jul 10, 2012, at 10:37 AM, "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)"  
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Julie - [REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

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**From:** Julie Philp [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:23 AM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Cc:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment

Dear Mr. Evans -

I understand that the D.C. Council is considering voting on an amendment that would raise fare prices on Uber and similar car services, or even disallow those types of businesses to lower their current fares. I am 100% opposed to this amendment. I support having choices and am an Uber user. I prefer to have a clean car to ride in, not one that smells like smoke or other odors. I prefer to have a driver who is attentive to me, not on his or her cell phone having a discussion with someone not in the car. I prefer to have a quiet ride, without loud music or talk radio. I prefer to pay by credit card, not to have to wait for the driver to stop and get change. I prefer to be able to summon a ride by my mobile device, not wave down a cab and have the driver ask me where I am going before I am allowed in the car. I prefer to receive a detailed receipt including my route, not a tiny slip of rolled up paper without a space to include tip.

Uber provides a valuable service to many residents and guests of Washington, D.C. As representatives of our national's capitol, I find it appalling that the D.C. Council is considering limiting my options for transportation. Under no circumstances do I believe that the minimum fare language should be passed.

Thank you,

Julie Philp

[REDACTED]  
#342

Washington, D.C. 20009

**From:** [Myles Kelvin](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 4:13:56 PM

---

Not acceptable.

Wow, a business (Uber) is prevented from lowering its prices.. wait.. what? We live in America, right?  
<http://tcn.ch/NfYOT3>

--

Myles Kelvin  
[REDACTED] (Office)  
(650) [REDACTED] (Cell)

**From:** [J.Cervantes](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:54:33 PM

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I have been informed that Councilmember Evans will be introducing an amendment that would have no minimum fare for Uber. As a young professional and frequent user of all forms of public transportation in Washington DC, I strongly support his amendment and urge you to support this as well. Thank you for the public service you provide.

Sincerely,

J. Cervantes

--



**From:** [Jared Simpson](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:54:14 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

It has come to my attention (via [http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/#comment\\_list](http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/#comment_list)) that the DC Council is trying to stunt economic growth and handicap innovation by making Uber increase its rates to at least 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. I am writing to implore you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Mr. Council member, I am disgusted by the proposed actions and am curious if you are in favour of innovation or incumbents?

Sincerely,  
Jared Simpson

P.S. Your name and response will be published in a blog of 1,000,000+ readers. If you ignore this email, your name will be published as the DC council member who chose to ignore it.

**From:** [joshua becker](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:23:04 PM

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Hello, I am a regular reader of Tim Ferriss' blog and user of Uber. I implore you to read his blog post regarding the Uber Amendment hear: [http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/#comment\\_list](http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/#comment_list). I am writing to ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. I also want to ask if you are in favor of innovation or incumbents? FYI Your name and response will be published in a blog of 1,000,000+ readers. If you ignore this email, your name will be published as the DC Council-member who chose to ignore my email.  
All the best and thank you for reading,  
Joshua Becker.

**From:** [VN Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 3:11:37 PM

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Ms. Cheh,

Is this article correct in stating that you did not provide Uber with draft language on the proposed bill in an effort to push it through with little opposition, and so as to satisfy the taxi lobby, who has been providing substandard, some would say racist/classist service in our city for years?

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shervin-pishevar/dc-uber-right-or-uber-wro\\_b\\_1661456.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shervin-pishevar/dc-uber-right-or-uber-wro_b_1661456.html)

As a DC homeowner, a small business owner and user of the Uber service I sincerely hope not. I may not live in your ward, but I will certainly remember your actions regarding this new and innovative company's business in our city. I urge you to allow free enterprise to flourish by abandoning any actions to create a "price floor" for Uber. It's the right thing to do for our citizens and our city.

Thanks,

V

Vilasa Campbell

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Kelli Scheid](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:47:42 PM

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Councilmen:

I have lived in the DC area for almost ten years. I am writing to request that you vote to strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment slated to be voted on today by the Council.

DC residents should not be punished by having to pay higher fares for Uber in order to keep the market cornered for taxicab drivers. DC cabs are, in my experience and notoriously, old, dirty, hot and smelly. If Uber wants to operate a clean, comfortable service at competitive prices to taxicabs, why not let them? The result is a better experience for taxicab riders. The free market should be allowed to operate here.

Instead, please support Councilmember Evans' amendment that will not mandate a minimum for Uber.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best, Kelli Scheid

**From:** [Sid Pandit](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:47:41 PM

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DC City Council Members,

I was pleased to hear that Ms. Cheh's ill advised amendment has been withdrawn from consideration at this time, and I commend you for listening to the voices of your constituents. It has come to my attention that Mr. Evans plans to introduce an amendment that specifically dictates that there be no price floor for Uber, and I urge you to vote in favor of that amendment so that we can put an end to thinly disguised anti-competitive amendments of this type in the future.

Again, I will reiterate from my previous email - demand for Uber, as evidenced by the numerous emails that each of you have received, would only exist if Uber was providing a superior service. There only reason that consumers would willingly choose to pay a premium for a service that operates in the same geographical area as DC taxicabs is that there is rampant dissatisfaction with the current system. Allowing Uber, and those like it, will only help to reform a broken system.

Regards,

Sid Pandit

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 5:08 PM, Sid Pandit <> wrote:  
DC City Counsel Members,

I was recently made aware of the proposed Uber Amendment that is being voted on tomorrow, Tuesday July 9, 2012, and I write with the hope that each of you will vote against the measure for a number of reasons.

As an initial matter, I understand that the City Counsel is charged with protecting citizens and visitors in Washington, D.C., and I commend you for your roles in doing a wonderful job thus far. My concern with the Uber Amendment stems from direct experience with DC taxis. Having lived and worked in DC and patronized establishments all over the city, I have had about 15 years of experience with the DC taxicab system. A few years ago, the Counsel voted to abolish the zone system, which eliminated many of the problems that existed, including riders being overcharged for cab fares. Despite the addition of the meter system, which DC taxicab owners resisted, problems persist.

As just one example of the problems that exist, I frequently attempt to take cabs from DC to Maryland, only to hear a multitude of excuses about why a cab driver isn't going that way, doesn't have enough gas, or otherwise will not take me. I am not alone in this experience. On a number of occasions, my colleagues and I have resorted to dialing 911 in order to settle disputes of this type, despite our willingness to pay the appropriate fare. Typically, the taxicab drivers will resort to

a bartering system, turning off the meter and inquiring about how much we will pay them to take us to our desired destination. Indeed, a recent Washington Post article highlighted similar problems that exist at Union Station after DC taxicab inspectors are no longer on duty.

These and other problems led me to try Uber Cab. Uber is a clean and convenient service that helps off duty limosines and customers connect. Since I discovered Uber Cab, I have not had one problem getting around the city, or from DC to Maryland or Virginia. Part of the reason for this is that Uber holds their drivers accountable, allowing a rider to rate their driver on a star system. Another advantage is that the system is cashless, with payments made through a credit card. In short, there are no disadvantages to this system. Those who choose to partake may pay a premium, but I have found that it is well worth it to avoid the hassle of engaging in altercations with taxicab drivers.

To be sure, I certainly understand that the DC Counsel is trying to protect citizens and visitors from unscrupulous businesses that seek to take advantage of unsuspecting customers. Uber Cab is not one of those businesses, and should not be unfairly targeted for providing a service for which there is a demand. In short, I would ask that each of you vote against the Uber Amendment so that I, and others like me, can continue to enjoy the benefits of a company that is providing service that is simply superior to the DC taxicab system currently in place. Voting in favor of this measure would be nothing short of artificially altering the marketplace when a clear demand exists for this service.

Sincerely,

Sid Pandit

**From:** [David White](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:46:35 PM

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Dear Tommy,

I just heard from Councilmember Evans that he plans to introduce an amendment setting no minimum for Uber.

I hope you will support this amendment.

Thanks!  
David White

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:59 PM, David White <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Dear Tommy,

I'm writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment to the taxi modernization bill.

I'm a huge fan of Uber. The fares are transparent and straightforward. The cars are clean. The drivers are courteous. And credit cards are always accepted. It's impossible to make any such generalization about taxis in DC.

It is my hope that Uber's presence in DC will force taxi drivers to compete.

It is not the role of the DC City Council to keep transportation prices artificially high and shield the taxi industry from competition.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,  
David White

[REDACTED]  
Washington DC  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Andrew Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:34:12 PM

---

Council Member Catania,

As a Logan's Circle DC Resident, and happy Uber customer, I'm struggling to understand the Council's interference in this private businesses' operation; forcing customers to pay a higher price for a service, interfering with fair competition is mind boggling.

I'd like to encourage you and fellow council members to not pass a minimum price floor on Uber and support the amendment put forth by Evans/Wells.

Sincerely,  
John Andrew Garcia

 20005



**From:** [Max Triba](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:21:36 PM

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Dear Council,

I am writing as both a citizen and someone with a background in economics to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. If our nation is to stand strong on our free market ideals, we cannot protect stale monopolies from fresh competition and a move towards greater market efficiency and choice.

This represents a profound opportunity for you to support innovative business models and the creative entrepreneurship necessary to see them through. These movements will carry our nation into the next century economically and technologically.

Please ask yourselves on this day whether you have what it takes to support the principles the United States stands on by eliminating the minimum fare imposed on Uber.

Thank you.

Max Triba  
B.S. Economics & International Business  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

**From:** [Ken Stark](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:09:13 PM

---

Vote not to put a minimum price for Uber or transportation firms.

Ken Stark  
President  
Stark & Associates  
Commercial Real Estate  
TCN Worldwide Affiliate

9855 Double R Blvd.  
Suite 200  
Reno, Nevada 89521



Office - Ext 105  
Fax  
Cell

[www.starktcn.com](http://www.starktcn.com)

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**From:** [Jacqueline Elizabeth Hackett](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:52:05 PM

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Dear Council members ,

I hope you will support Über during the upcoming discussion of the city council. Über is a great option for people in DC- too frequently cabs refuse to pick me up because I am traveling to my office beyond the city limits, and über always ensures I can get to work safely

I hope you will consider supporting über tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Hackett  
Ward 2 resident

~~~~~  
Jacqueline Elizabeth Hackett

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Chris French](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:50:20 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I've read some articles today concerning the vote taking place on minimum fares specified in the Uber Amendment. As an entrepreneur and small business owner, it pains me to see this type of legislation limit innovation by start-up businesses in favor of protecting entrenched business models that find it easier to have the rules changed in their favor than to continually adapt and evolve.

In favor of keeping creativity, innovation, and progress alive and well, I ask that you strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment.

Regards  
Chris French  
CEO, CMF, Inc.

**From:** [Dr.Eugene Giannini](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:41:33 PM

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Thank you for your support !

I am writing as a DC resident , small business owner and employer to ask to continue your support of the recent Evans/ Wells Uber Amendment before the City Council.

**Eugene T. Giannini DDS**

**Washington, DC 20016 USA**

**From:** [Dr.Eugene Giannini](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:40:24 PM

---

I am writing as a DC resident , small business owner and employer to ask for your support of the recent Evans/ Wells Uber Amendment before the City Council.

**Eugene T. Giannini DDS**

**Washington, DC 20016 USA**

**From:** [Emily Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:36:42 PM

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Dear Madame and Sirs:

I am appalled at the lack of business foresight and scaling of opportunity so far demonstrated in the debate over Uber, their business practices, pricing, and terms of service.

How dare a company come in and offer DC and area residents, tourists and DRIVERS OF YOUR ECONOMY a chance for a clean, affordable, and safe ride at a competitive price. You are hurting jobs, embarrassing the district (again), and proving to entrepreneurs and other savvy business leaders that DC is no place for tech advancement, competition, and business development.

I use Uber frequently because it works and its reliable. Your problem is with your cab drivers - NOT new business! Why don't you have them clean up their act before ruining a perfectly sound and reasonable business.

Emily Cooper

**From:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:35:24 PM

---

Please handle.....

---

**From:** Julie Philp [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:25 PM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber amendment

That's encouraging, Schannette. Could you please send me that language? I would greatly appreciate it.

Julie

Sent from a mobile device - please excuse typos.

On Jul 10, 2012, at 10:37 AM, "Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)"

< [REDACTED] > wrote:

Julie - [REDACTED]

Schannette Grant on behalf of Jack Evans  
Chief of Staff

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**From:** Julie Philp [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:23 AM  
**To:** Evans, Jack (COUNCIL)  
**Cc:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment

Dear Mr. Evans -

I understand that the D.C. Council is considering voting on an amendment that would raise fare prices on Uber and similar car services, or even disallow those types of businesses to lower their current fares. I am 100% opposed to this amendment. I support having choices and am an Uber user. I prefer to have a clean car to ride in, not one that smells like smoke or other odors. I prefer to have a driver who is attentive to me, not on his or her cell phone having a discussion with someone not in the car. I prefer to have a quiet ride, without loud music or talk radio. I prefer to pay by credit card, not to have to wait for the driver to stop and get change. I prefer to be able to summon a ride by my mobile device, not wave down a cab and have the driver ask me where I am going before I am allowed in the car. I prefer to receive a detailed receipt including my route, not a tiny slip of rolled up paper without a space to include tip.



Uber provides a valuable service to many residents and guests of Washington, D.C. As representatives of our national's capitol, I find it appalling that the D.C. Council is considering limiting my options for transportation. Under no circumstances do I believe that the minimum fare language should be passed.

Thank you,

Julie Philp



Washington, D.C. 20009

**From:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Bellanca, Amy \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:33:47 PM

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**From:** Steve Epstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:11 PM  
**To:** Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Brown, Michael (Council); Graham, Jim (COUNCIL); Evans, Jack (COUNCIL); Bowser, Muriel (COUNCIL); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Wells, Thomas (COUNCIL); Alexander, Yvette (COUNCIL); Barry, Marion (COUNCIL); Catania, David A. (COUNCIL); Orange, Vincent B. (Council)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment

Is this for real? Perhaps its time for taxicabs to lower their fares to compete ... unless you have evidence that Uber is pricing below cost.

[The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups](#)

**From:** [Zach Brookes](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:22:58 PM

---

Dear members of the Washington City Council

Please strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. I think you'll agree that America prides itself on it's proliferation of capitalism, independent thought and opportunity. It is ridiculous that this type of industry pandering could get so far. Please do not contribute to setting a precedent that will negatively impact market competition and job growth.

Thank you for your time.

Zach Brookes

**From:** [Jeanne Coffey](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:15:33 PM

---

I called your office today and was told you were already in court regarding this issue. I am anxiously awaiting your verdict. I STRONGLY advise that your vote was to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment!! I will be shocked and extremely upset should there be any other decision in this matter.

Thank you for your time.

Jeanne Coffey

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:04:03 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

**Gail Pentz**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:02:31 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

**Gail Pentz**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:59:41 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

**Gail Pentz**

**From:** [justin.gardiner](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:52:53 PM

---

Dear DC Council

I would like to express my concern for the vote on the Uber Amendment today. We must strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. The question is whether you are for innovation or incumbents. Thank you for your response. The responses received will be posted to a blog of 1,000,000+ unique readers.

Sincerely

Justin Gardiner



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Benjamin Singer](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:44:18 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I would like to state that I strongly feel that you should Strike down the minimum fair language from the Uber Amendment. It is an attack on innovation in favor of dogmatic precedents of the past, and I feel is completely and utterly against the founding principles of America.

Thank you for your time.  
Ben Singer

--

Benjamin Singer  
Lehigh University  
Industrial Engineering  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Meghan Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:42:22 PM


---

Good Afternoon Mr. Catania,

I am writing to you regarding the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment, and I ask you with all respect to strike this language down. I find it an outrage that Uber's innovative ideas and tactics would be thwarted to uphold a taxi transport and communication system that is dis-satisfactory to me and many residents of DC. Uber has innovated communication, technology and experience. Why keep the current system an unpleasant one, and squash an exciting local start-up company at the same time?

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Meghan Taylor

  
Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Meghan Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:40:35 PM


---

Good Afternoon Mr. Wells,

I am writing to you regarding the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment, and I ask you with all respect to strike this language down. I find it an outrage that Uber's innovative ideas and tactics would be thwarted to uphold a taxi transport and communication system that is dis-satisfactory to me and many residents of DC. Uber has innovated communication, technology and experience. Why keep the current system an unpleasant one, and squash an exciting local start-up company at the same time?

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Meghan Taylor

  
Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Meghan Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:37:27 PM


---

Good Afternoon Mr. Brown,

I am writing to you regarding the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment, and I ask you with all respect to strike this language down. I find it an outrage that Uber's innovative ideas and tactics would be thwarted to uphold a taxi transport and communication system that is dis-satisfactory to me and many residents of DC. Uber has innovated communication, technology and experience. Why keep the current system an unpleasant one, and squash an exciting local start-up company at the same time?

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Meghan Taylor

  
Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [CJ Horvath](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:20:39 PM

---

Dear David Catania,

ACG Consultants has been an avid user of the Uber car service. We are dependent on it to provide us with quality transportation and service, and the new UberX option offered is of tremendous value to ACG. Unfortunately the Uber Amendment to the Taxi Modernization Bill, preventing Uber from lowering rates less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fair would be detrimental to our business, and interfere with a functioning market place. We urge you to revise the Bill, and withdraw the Uber Amendment!

Thank you,

ACG Consultants

**From:** [CJ Horvath](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:18:59 PM

---

Dear Tommy Wells,

ACG Consultants has been an avid user of the Uber car service. We are dependent on it to provide us with quality transportation and service, and the new UberX option offered is of tremendous value to ACG. Unfortunately the Uber Amendment to the Taxi Modernization Bill, preventing Uber from lowering rates less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fair would be detrimental to our business, and interfere with a functioning market place. We urge you to revise the Bill, and withdraw the Uber Amendment!

Thank you,

ACG Consultants

**From:** [John Giannattasio](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:16:18 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Are you in favor of innovation or incumbents?

Sincerely,  
John Giannattasio

**From:** [CJ Horvath](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:15:38 PM

---

Dear Michael Brown,

ACG Consultants has been an avid user of the Uber car service. We are dependent on it to provide us with quality transportation and service, and the new UberX option offered is of tremendous value to ACG. Unfortunately the Uber Amendment to the Taxi Modernization Bill, preventing Uber from lowering rates less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fair would be detrimental to our business, and interfere with a functioning market place. We urge you to revise the Bill, and withdraw the Uber Amendment!

Thank you,

ACG Consultants



**From:** [Steve Epstein](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:11:48 PM

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Is this for real? Perhaps its time for taxicabs to lower their fares to compete ... unless you have evidence that Uber is pricing below cost.

[The Council That Kicked The Hornet's Nest — Why TODAY Matters for Start-Ups](#)

**From:** [David Leiter](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:08:15 PM

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

I find the minimum fare proposal for Uber completely un-American and it will stifle start-ups to compete in a free country. This is a disaster for America. Please support innovation and not incumbent industries that are dying for innovation. Support what made America great which is innovation and new ideas. This is a bad idea for DC and a bad idea for America.

**From:** [David Leiter](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:07:37 PM

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

I find the minimum fare proposal for Uber completely un-American and it will stifle start-ups to compete in a free country. This is a disaster for America. Please support innovation and not incumbent industries that are dying for innovation. Support what made America great which is innovation and new ideas. This is a bad idea for DC and a bad idea for America.

**From:** [David Leiter](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:06:01 PM

---

I find the minimum fare proposal for Uber completely un-American and it will stifle start-ups to compete in a free country. This is a disaster for America. Please support innovation and not incumbent industries that are dying for innovation. Support what made America great which is innovation and new ideas. This is a bad idea for DC and a bad idea for America.

**From:** [Adam Wiltgen](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:45:39 AM

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Dear DC Council members,

I have recently heard of the motion to fix taxi fare rates for outside private taxi services such as Uber. This creates an unfair advantage to entrepreneurs trying to get a foothold in a "fixture" industry such as a city taxi service, stifling innovation and the potential for offering better, higher quality service.

It's creative entrepreneurs like Uber that will help raise the standard and offer options for it's citizens. The proposed MINIMUM FARE language will stifle the growth of companies like these who will only do good for an industry sector by bringing innovation, competition, and creativity.

To enforce a fixed minimum rate to push out competition to the taxi industry is unethical and saddening to see it even considered. Uphold your integrity and keep fair competition alive by voting against this law.

Thanks

Adam

**From:** [Taylor Brown](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:42:38 AM

---

Goodmorning –

I am a current DC resident who is very upset at the Uber amendment that is being proposed. I travel the U.S. on a regular basis for my job and for leisure and have yet to find a taxi system that is as subpar as the one in DC. My first problem comes from the drivers themselves. Nine out of 10 times the driver speaks very broken English which creates a problem in communicating the destination desired. They are almost always very rude, disgruntled and unpleasant to be around. All most all of them are constantly on the phone while driving speaking in a foreign language and not paying attention to the request or directions of the passenger. My second problem comes from the condition of the cars. The cars are very old, very dirty and I feel they are unsafe. I have been in numerous cabs where a passenger was unable to sit in the front seat due to the amount of "trash" that the driver had accumulated and failed to throw out. Third, I have never seen worse drivers than the DC taxi cabs. They are consistently pulling out in front of people, stopping without warning in the middle of the street, etc. They also go out of their way to try to rip their patrons off. They go under the speed limit to increase fares, stop for extended periods at stop signs, go the longest route possible, etc. Their goal should be to get their passengers from point A to point B in the fastest, safest way possible – which I have yet to ride in a taxi (in DC) that did this. It has gotten to the point where I would rather walk to a destination and waste an extra hour rather than get in a skeezy DC cab. It also stuns me that DC has no regulations on the number of cabs that are able to run the city at a given time. Take NYC for example, which is a leader in both regulation and satisfaction. Their (like most all other cities) supply is locked down through the medallion system so that you don't have unsafe drivers who have been on the road for 24 hours (I have had a taxi driver almost fall asleep at a red light--very scary). The bottom line: the drivers suck -- don't speak English, have no clue where they are going, and try to get every dime out of you; the cars are unsafe, old, dirty, and outdated.

Uber is everything that DC taxi cabs are not. The cars are top of the line, well maintained vehicles which you feel comfortable in, clean in, safe in. The drivers are beyond impeccable-over the top polite, professional, and good humored. They make the ride enjoyable and do not have you disgruntled upon departure. The only reason that this amendment is being proposed is because it is very clear and evident that DC taxis will never offer a reliable, safe, clean mode of transportation. Council members, please do not disappoint the DC residents with the Uber Amendment. If you do so, you will continue to run the city and the taxi system into the ground.

Thank you,  
Taylor L. Brown

**From:** [Taylor Brown](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:41:40 AM

---

Goodmorning –

I am a current DC resident who is very upset at the Uber amendment that is being proposed. I travel the U.S. on a regular basis for my job and for leisure and have yet to find a taxi system that is as subpar as the one in DC. My first problem comes from the drivers themselves. Nine out of 10 times the driver speaks very broken English which creates a problem in communicating the destination desired. They are almost always very rude, disgruntled and unpleasant to be around. All most all of them are constantly on the phone while driving speaking in a foreign language and not paying attention to the request or directions of the passenger. My second problem comes from the condition of the cars. The cars are very old, very dirty and I feel they are unsafe. I have been in numerous cabs where a passenger was unable to sit in the front seat due to the amount of "trash" that the driver had accumulated and failed to throw out. Third, I have never seen worse drivers than the DC taxi cabs. They are consistently pulling out in front of people, stopping without warning in the middle of the street, etc. They also go out of their way to try to rip their patrons off. They go under the speed limit to increase fares, stop for extended periods at stop signs, go the longest route possible, etc. Their goal should be to get their passengers from point A to point B in the fastest, safest way possible – which I have yet to ride in a taxi (in DC) that did this. It has gotten to the point where I would rather walk to a destination and waste an extra hour rather than get in a skeezy DC cab. It also stuns me that DC has no regulations on the number of cabs that are able to run the city at a given time. Take NYC for example, which is a leader in both regulation and satisfaction. Their (like most all other cities) supply is locked down through the medallion system so that you don't have unsafe drivers who have been on the road for 24 hours (I have had a taxi driver almost fall asleep at a red light--very scary). The bottom line: the drivers suck -- don't speak English, have no clue where they are going, and try to get every dime out of you; the cars are unsafe, old, dirty, and outdated.

Uber is everything that DC taxi cabs are not. The cars are top of the line, well maintained vehicles which you feel comfortable in, clean in, safe in. The drivers are beyond impeccable-over the top polite, professional, and good humored. They make the ride enjoyable and do not have you disgruntled upon departure. The only reason that this amendment is being proposed is because it is very clear and evident that DC taxis will never offer a reliable, safe, clean mode of transportation. Council members, please do not disappoint the DC residents with the Uber Amendment. If you do so, you will continue to run the city and the taxi system into the ground.

Thank you,  
Taylor L. Brown

**From:** [Taylor Brown](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:39:58 AM

---

Goodmorning –

I am a current DC resident who is very upset at the Uber amendment that is being proposed. I travel the U.S. on a regular basis for my job and for leisure and have yet to find a taxi system that is a subpar as the one in DC. My first problem comes from the drivers themselves. Nine out of 10 times the driver speaks very broken English which creates a problem in communicating the destination desired. They are almost always very rude, disgruntled and unpleasant to be around. All most all of them are constantly on the phone while driving speaking in a foreign language and not paying attention to the request or directions of the passenger. My second problem comes from the condition of the cars. The cars are very old, very dirty and I feel they are unsafe. I have been in numerous cabs where a passenger was unable to sit in the front seat due to the amount of "trash" that the driver had accumulated and failed to throw out. Third, I have never seen worse drivers than the DC taxi cabs. They are consistently pulling out in front of people, stopping without warning in the middle of the street, etc. They also go out of their way to try to rip their patrons off. They go under the speed limit to increase fairs, stop for extended periods at stop signs, go the longest route possible, etc. Their goal should be to get their passengers from point A to point B in the fastest, safest way possible – which I have yet to ride in a taxi (in DC) that did this. It has gotten to the point where I would rather walk to a destination and waste an extra hour rather than get in a skeezy DC cab. It also stuns me that DC has no regulations on the number of cabs that are able to run the city at a given time. Take NYC for example, which is a leader in both regulation and satisfaction. Their (like most all other cities) supply is locked down through the medallion system so that you don't have unsafe drivers who have been on the road for 24 hours (I have had a taxi driver almost fall asleep at a red light--very scary). The bottom line: the drivers suck -- don't speak English, have no clue where they are going, and try to get every dime out of you; the cars are unsafe, old, dirty, and outdated.

Uber is everything that DC taxi cabs are not. The cars are top of the line, well maintained vehicles which you feel comfortable in, clean in, safe in. The drivers are beyond impeccable-over the top polite, professional, and good humored. They make the ride enjoyable and do not have you disgruntled upon departure. The only reason that this amendment is being proposed is because it is very clear and evident that DC taxis will never offer a reliable, safe, clean mode of transportation. Council members, please do not disappoint the DC residents with the Uber Amendment. If you do so, you will continue to run the city and the taxi system into the ground.

Thank you,  
Taylor L. Brown



**From:** [Lily Fouts](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:38:57 AM

---

Dear Council Member,

I just learned of and reviewed the Uber Amendment and would like to add my voice to the many cries to strike out the minimum fare language from the amendment.

This is an outrageous measure which attacks a start-up company. Start-ups are the backbone of the economy. This move to create an artificial price floor goes against the freedom this country stands for and is absolutely absurd. As a traveler who appreciates a wide variety of transportation options, as a consumer, and as an entrepreneur, I ask you to please remove this minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Thank you.

Lily Fouts

**From:** [Ann Heatherton](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:35:41 AM

---

Councilman Catania,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.  
It is just plain un-American.

Thank you,

Ann Heatherton  
Los Angeles, CA

**From:** [Mike July](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:35:36 AM

---

Hello Mr. Mendelson and other members of the DC Council,

I am sure your email inboxes are rather full right now so I will be brief. My reason for writing is to express my concern with the Uber Amendment and respectfully ask that you remove the 'minimum fare' language from the amendment.

In short, legislation that creates a price floor is a deterrent to the competitive nature of our economy. It shouldn't be the role of government to dictate prices in order to protect one competitor from another. Let the market dictate where the prices should fall and the strongest businesses will survive and thrive. Please do the right thing.

I don't anticipate a response, but if you are so inclined, please know your remarks may be posted on the blog of Tim Ferriss (CCed) (<http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/>) as well as on my own blog.

--

Best,

Mike July

<http://mikejuly.com>

Web Strategy Development Consultant in Grand Rapids, MI

<http://www.facebook.com/mikejuly>

<http://www.twitter.com/uemike>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/mikejuly>


**From:** [Liotta, Stephanie \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:34:42 AM

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Scratch that and sorry about re-send misfire.

----- Original Message -----

From: Liotta, Stephanie (Council)  
To: Stogner, Kevin (Council)  
Sent: Tue Jul 10 11:33:23 2012  
Subject: Uber amendment



**From:** [Liotta, Stephanie \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:33:23 AM

---

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ann Heatherton](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:32:44 AM

---

Councilman Wells,

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.  
It is just plain un-American.

Thank you,

Ann Heatherton  
Los Angeles, CA

**From:** [Ann Heatherton](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:28:12 AM

---

Councilman Brown:

Please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.  
It is just plain un-American.

Thanks

Ann Heatherton  
Los Angeles, CA

**From:** [Tim O'Brien](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:27:49 AM

---

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to encourage you to voice your belief in the American way of free enterprise by striking down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. America is watching this very significant vote and we hope you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Brien  
The O'Brien Companies LLC



**From:** [Scott Geurin](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:27:37 AM

---

Hi this is Scott Geurin and I've heard about the Uber Amendment and what seems to be government interference into the free market in order to maintain the status quo. As a visitor to DC, I would ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment. This type of language and law makes it hard for start-ups and small business to grow. These business are what really adds jobs and value to the economy.

Thanks you for your time.

## Scott Geurin, EI

Brown Engineers, LLC  
17200 Chenal Pkwy. Suite 300, PMB 324  
Little Rock, AR 72223-5965

Email: [REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED] Ext. 151

Cell: [REDACTED]

[www.BrownEngineers.net](http://www.BrownEngineers.net)

**From:** Jacques  
**To:** Jacques Nault  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:27:24 AM

---

Dear Sir / Madam,

If you haven't already, I strongly suggest you read this blog post regarding the Uber Amendment.

[http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+timferriss+%28The+Blog+of+Author+Tim+Ferriss%29](http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+timferriss+%28The+Blog+of+Author+Tim+Ferriss%29)

Please do the right thing and strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to doing the right thing.

Yours sincerely,

—

Jacques Nault

**From:** [Liotta, Stephanie \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Stogner, Kevin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:26:44 AM

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [Nathan White](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:03:05 AM

---

Please vote against the so-called Uber Amendment.

D.C. is a great city that is embarrassed by terrible taxi service. The Taxi Commission seems to be the center of corruption. Uber should be allowed to compete and force the taxi service in Washington to evolve. Otherwise, we were proving to every single visitor and every single person who takes a cab that we are a backwards and corrupt city.... (Congress does that enough without our help).


Nathan White

**From:** [Christopher Donahoe](#)  
**To:** [Christopher Donahoe](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:01:25 AM

---

Please support Councilmember Evans' amendment, which would have no minimum fare for Uber. This is a good alternative to the current proposal.

Best regards,  
Chris

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 11:36 PM, Christopher Donahoe <> wrote:

Dear Council Member -

I was disappointed to learn of the proposal to keep the prices for taxi alternatives artificially high. This proposal limits choice, hurts consumers, negatively disrupts a functioning market, and discourages service innovation.

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best regards,  
Chris

--

**Christopher Donahoe**



[@chrisdonahoe](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)

**From:** [Emilie](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:54:24 AM

---

Mr. Brown,

As a small-business owner in Washington state, I'm extremely disheartened reading about the Uber Amendment. I ask that you strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Sincerely,

Emilie Hester

emilie hester | founder  
my bio: [about emilie](#)  
our website: [www.jogogym.com](http://www.jogogym.com)  
our voicemail/secretary : [REDACTED]

---  
"Live with intention. Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Practice wellness. Play with abandon. Laugh. Choose with no regret. Appreciate your friends. Continue to learn. Do what you love."

**From:** [Alexis De Berry](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:52:19 AM

---

Dear Mr Catania

I hope this email finds you well. I am a happy Ward 4 resident who is concerned about the new Minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. Uber happens to stop for me an African American female in her mid 20's when taxi's will not.

When leaving the city late at night headed to ward 4 many taxi drivers will refuse to take me home saying that is too far out of the way. I never get such a complaint from Uber.

I really appreciate Uber fir what it is and for the pricing structure. I could wait on a taxi and take over an hour to try to get home, or i can wait on uber who promises 15 and if it will take longer i know about it.

I feel safe and secure.

If you do plan to agree to the minimum fare language I ask that you insert mandates about who taxi's stop for and their ability to refuse fares- along with compensation for the passengers.

Thank you for your time

Alexis DeBerry  
Oglethorpe St NW  
Washington DC

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:48:02 AM

---

Please do not support the Uber Amendment that would force Uber to increase its rates. This kind of government intervention to reduce competition will negatively impact the consumer and is simply unamerican. Thank you for you time.

David Taft

[REDACTED]  
Washington DC, 20003



**From:** [Jerry Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:46:10 AM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

As a DC resident, I would like to urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the DC Uber amendment. It is concerning that the DC Council would pass an amendment with language that requires a business to charge the residents of the district more than it would like to charge and prevent them from offering a cheaper (and most Uber users would argue, far superior) alternative to our current pathetic taxi service that is frankly an embarrassment to the city that should aspire to be the nation's showplace. Competition from Uber should be welcomed and I feel would do nothing but force taxi vendors to improve their service or be weeded out. -- Jerry Thomas MD

**From:** [Alexis De Berry](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:46:03 AM

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Dear Mr Brown,

I hope this email finds you well. I am a happy Ward 4 resident who is concerned about the new Minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. Uber happens to stop for me an African American female in her mid 20's when taxi's will not.

When leaving the city late at night headed to ward 4 many taxi drivers will refuse to take me home saying that is too far out of the way. I never get such a complaint from Uber.

I really appreciate Uber fir what it is and for the pricing structure. I could wait on a taxi and take over an hour to try to get home, or i can wait on uber who promises 15 and if it will take longer i know about it.

I feel safe and secure.

If you do plan to agree to the minimum fare language I ask that you insert mandates about who taxi's stop for and their ability to refuse fares- along with compensation for the passengers.

Thank you for your time

Alexis DeBerry  
Oglethorpe St NW  
Washington DC

**From:** [Justin](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:39:47 AM

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> Dear sirs,

>

> I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the uber amendment, you must turn to innovation and not incumbents now more than ever.

>

> Regards,

> Jus

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mike Faley](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:38:25 AM

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Mr. Wells,

I write as a concerned DC resident. The "Uber Amendment", being considered today, looks to set artificial price ceilings for an industry that has, by and large, been a sore point in DC's offerings as a major city. As a previous resident of Baltimore and New York City, DC has, by far, the worst taxi services to offer. The drivers are, at best, rude and overcharge. At worst, they have sexually assaulted individuals that I know on more than one occasion. DC is behind New York City in every facet of taxicab offerings, and even some Baltimore cabs offer credit card payments.

Uber has offered a new light to DC's taxi offerings. To see an amendment considered that, as far as I can tell, will do nothing but force DC residents to continue overpaying for taxi services, is a real shame. Please do whatever is possible to stop the passing of the Uber Amendment.

Mike Faley  


**From:** [Keesha Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:36:35 AM

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Dear Mr. Catania,

It is appalling to hear that the DC Council would strike down a lower cost for transportation in the [Uber Amendment](#). Uber is my favorite way to travel from Virginia to DC and back. The simple fact that you have taxis that REFUSE service to customers that live in Virginia. Several times I have hailed a taxi in DC and have been told to get out of the car because the driver refused to cross the bridge into Virginia. Uber is an option that not only provides a transportation service but CUSTOMER SERVICE which is absent from your taxi fleet.

If you vote on anything please vote on it being Illegal for DC taxis to refuse to take customers back to Virginia. If you don't, you are enabling their discriminatory behavior. If you refuse to allow an excellent reasonably priced transportation option such Uber, I will think twice about spending time and money in the District.

Please allow transportation options and healthy transportation competition to exist in the District.

Sincerely,  
Keesha Lawrence



**From:** [Ashley](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:36:19 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

If you haven't already, I strongly suggest you read this blog post <http://bit.ly/Ng3kko> regarding the "Uber Amendment".

Please do the right thing and **strike down the MINIMUM FARE language** from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to doing the right thing.

Yours sincerely,

-Ashley Allen

FYI - This amendment is of great interest to the more than 1,000,000 readers of Tim Ferris' blog. The position you choose to take on this issue will be made known to all of those readers.

**From:** [Keesha Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:35:20 AM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

It is appalling to hear that the DC Council would strike down a lower cost for transportation in the [Uber Amendment](#). Uber is my favorite way to travel from Virginia to DC and back. The simple fact that you have taxis that REFUSE service to customers that live in Virginia. Several times I have hailed a taxi in DC and have been told to get out of the car because the driver refused to cross the bridge into Virginia. Uber is an option that not only provides a transportation service but CUSTOMER SERVICE which is absent from your taxi fleet.

If you vote on anything please vote on it being Illegal for DC taxis to refuse to take customers back to Virginia. If you don't, you are enabling their discriminatory behavior. If you refuse to allow an excellent reasonably priced transportation option such Uber, I will think twice about spending time and money in the District.

Please allow transportation options and healthy transportation competition to exist in the District.

Sincerely,  
Keesha Lawrence



**From:** [Heather Choi](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:33:23 AM

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Mr. Catania:

I am a citizen in Ward 2. I urge you not to force Uber to raise its prices simply to appease the taxi industry. Uber provides a valuable and (currently) affordable service. I understand that Councilman Jack Evans is offering an amendment that would maintain Uber's current price structure. Please support this amendment.

Regards,  
Heather Choi

Heather Souder Choi  




**From:** [Keesha Lawrence](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:30:29 AM

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Dear Mr. Brown,

It is appalling to hear that the DC Council would strike down a lower cost for transportation in the [Uber Amendment](#). Uber is my favorite way to travel from Virginia to DC and back. The simple fact that you have taxis that REFUSE service to customers that live in Virginia. Several times I have hailed a taxi in DC and have been told to get out of the car because the driver refused to cross the bridge into Virginia. Uber is an option that not only provides a transportation service but CUSTOMER SERVICE which is absent from your taxi fleet.

If you vote on anything please vote on it being Illegal for DC taxis to refuse to take customers back to Virginia. If you don't, you are enabling their discriminatory behavior. If you refuse to allow an excellent reasonably priced transportation option such Uber, I will think twice about spending time and money in the District.

Please allow transportation options to exist and healthy transportation competition in the District.

Sincerely,  
Keesha Lawrence



**From:** [Brian Reddy](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:22:43 AM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber agreement.

Innovation? Or Incumbents?

-Brian

[www.b-reddy.org](http://www.b-reddy.org)

**From:** [Brian Reddy](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:22:03 AM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber agreement.

Innovation? Or Incumbents?

-Brian


[www.b-reddy.org](http://www.b-reddy.org)

**From:** [Jason Stowe](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 10:07:01 AM

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Mr. Wells,

As a resident of your ward and the district, I wanted to let you know that I was shocked to learn that the council is considering establishing a minimum price on transportation so as to favor one company over another. As a resident of the district who uses public transit, taxis, and services like Uber, I believe there should be as many options for consumers like me to choose from and they should not be subject to mandated pricing. The only way to improve these kind of services and keep prices low for riders is to allow more service providers to enter the market. Please oppose this amendment and encourage your fellow council members to do the same.

Thank you,  
Jason Stowe  


**From:** [Brandon Renz](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:56:33 AM

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I urge you to strike the minimum fare language from the so-called "Uber amendment" to the taxi modernization bill. It's incredible the Council would set a price floor for a competitive, consumer friendly service such as Uber which is working to create an even more economical service for riders. Regardless of whether taxi fares are lowered with any legislative action by the Council, or even whether the taxi drivers make enough money, if they can't compete, the industry should adjust supply accordingly. Also, I urge you to tell the respective authorities to lift the moratorium on limousine licenses.

Thanks.

Brandon Renz



Washington, D.C. 20003

**From:** [Susan Baker](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:54:53 AM

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Dear Mr Catania,

It seems ridiculous to even address this--the issue of prohibiting a lower cost option for transportation in the District of Columbia. I cannot believe that the council would even consider placing a ***lower limit*** on car service. To set rates at an artificially high level is a financial burden for the tax-paying public. Of course, it is to the public's advantage to have options for transportation and a viable competitive option would improve service for all.

I urge you to vote against the Uber Amendment or strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thanks you.

Best regards,  
Susan Baker, MD  


**From:** [Susan Baker](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:53:35 AM

---

Dear Mr Wells,

It seems ridiculous to even address this--the issue of prohibiting a lower cost option for transportation in the District of Columbia. I cannot believe that the council would even consider placing a ***lower limit*** on car service. To set rates at an artificially high level is a financial burden for the tax-paying public. Of course, it is to the public's advantage to have options for transportation and a viable competitive option would improve service for all.

I urge you to vote against the Uber Amendment or strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thanks you.

Best regards,  
Susan Baker, MD  


**From:** [Susan Baker](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:50:57 AM

---

Dear Mr Brown,

It seems ridiculous to even address this--the issue of prohibiting a lower cost option for transportation in the District of Columbia. I cannot believe that the council would even consider placing a ***lower limit*** on car service. To set rates at an artificially high level is a financial burden for the tax-paying public. Of course, it is to the public's advantage to have options for transportation and a viable competitive option would improve service for all.

I urge you to vote against the Uber Amendment or strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thanks you.

Best regards,  
Susan Baker, MD  




**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:50:21 AM

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Dear At-Large Councilman Catania,

I am writing to strongly urge you and the DC City Council to strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. As a DC resident and constituent of yours, I should be allowed to choose alternatives to the terrible, inept DC cab system. Uber provides an outstanding service, and the company should not be hindered from conducting its business by this unfair proposed amendment. I continue to be perplexed as to why the DC City Council regularly considers and enacts anti-business legislation while watching businesses flee to the suburbs. Please allow Uber a fair chance by striking the minimum fare language.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Poston

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Aaron Dorsey](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:49:17 AM

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Good Morning All.

I wanted to express my support for Uber being highly reliable, professional and convenient. I am a professional, young black man born and raised in DC and I have ALWAYS have issues catching a taxi no matter where in the city I am hailing from or calling from. I understand that the council is attempting to save the taxi industry, however it seems that the Council want DC Taxis to monopolize the transportation industry.

The best decision made with DC Taxicabs was installing meters which cleared a lot of confusion from the complex "zoning" system that was previously in place. Most DC Taxi drivers do NOT pick up all hailing patrons, they are always selective on where they are willing to go and if you call a taxi consider yourself lucky if it shows up. I believe that most taxi drivers are over exaggerating their "grief" to the council. Most of them sit on a stand all day waiting for an airport fares only. Moreover, they will attempt to drive the long way to run up the fare since they can no longer get over on customers by using the old zoning map.

A little competition would be healthy for both DC Taxi and Uber. If DC Taxi drivers were honest, reliable and provided good customer service as Uber does, there would not be a threat of decreasing business from DC Taxis. It is unfair to set rates so high that it would deter customers from utilizing Uber's service. Uber is not stealing revenue, they are earning honestly and brilliantly. I love Uber, they will pick me up and drive anyway when a DC Taxi will not. If a DC Taxi driver is complaining about not making fares that's because their service is not up to par or they are being entirely too selective on who they want to pick up and where they are willing drive.

I would like for you to take in consideration the great service that Uber provides to the city. If they can offer clean vehicles, great customer service, modern technology and reliability the Council should make it fair and allow the consumer to choose which business they would like to patronize. Decision should be made on good transportation service, not whether you could afford it or people of a higher financial state. ANYONE should be able to ride in a Uber vehicle regardless of your financial status.

Aaron Dorsey  
Ward 6

**From:** Nathan Weinman  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:45:42 AM

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Council Members,

I am a resident (and voter) of the District and am proud to call DC my home and place of work.

I was shocked this morning to read about the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment that you will be voting on today. As a resident of DC I use both DC Taxis and the Uber Service. They are distinct services and we have room for both.

More importantly we should be encouraging small businesses and innovation – not legislating it out of existence.

Please vote against the minimum fare amendment.

Also please note that this issue is getting national attention and how you vote will be followed by DC voters as well as others nationwide.

[http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+timferriss+%28The+Blog+of+Author+Tim+Ferriss%29&utm\\_content=Google+Feedfetcher](http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+timferriss+%28The+Blog+of+Author+Tim+Ferriss%29&utm_content=Google+Feedfetcher)

Nathan Weinman  
Director of Contracts and Compliance  
Witt Associates  
1501 M Street, NW 5th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]  
[www.wittassociates.com](http://www.wittassociates.com)

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**From:** [Noah Eden](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:43:59 AM

---

Hi,

I am writing to encourage you to remove the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. This language discourages competition in the District's transportation options and will reduce the flexibility of residents to make their own choices about how to move about the city.

Thank you,

Noah Eden

From: [Cara Zarcone](#)  
To: [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
Cc: [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
Subject: Uber amendment  
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:40:58 AM

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Dear Mr. Wells-

I understand that the D.C. Council is considering voting on an amendment that would raise fare prices on Uber and similar car services, or even disallow those types of businesses to lower their current fares. **I am 100% opposed to this amendment.** The state of our current taxi system is disgraceful, especially when compared to other world-class cities. Therefore, I support having choices and am an Uber user. I prefer to have a clean car to ride in, not one that smells like smoke or other odors. I prefer to have a driver who is attentive to me, not on his or her cell phone having a discussion with someone not in the car. I prefer to have a quiet ride, without loud music or talk radio. I prefer to pay by credit card, not to have to wait for the driver to stop and get change. I prefer to be able to summon a ride by my mobile device, not wave down a cab and have the driver ask me where I am going before I am allowed in the car. I prefer to receive a detailed receipt including my route, not a tiny slip of rolled up paper without a space to include tip.

Uber provides a valuable service to many residents and guests of Washington, D.C. As representatives of our national's capitol, I find it appalling that the D.C. Council is considering limiting my options for transportation. Under no circumstances do I believe that the minimum fare language should be passed.

I am a 10 year resident of the District of Columbia, a registered voter and former home owner in Logan Circle. The District has come a very long way in my time here and I'd like to continue contributing to Washington's success. Amenities like Uber provide the confidence that we, as a community, are moving forward and setting ourselves up for future success. If Uber means that the current taxi system has to step up their game by providing quality customer service, clean vehicles and heating/cooling without argument, then so be it.

Thank you,

Cara Zarcone



Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [elizabeth.hearn](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:35:00 AM

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As part of making DC and livable, walkable city every option should be available to those of us who choose not to own cars, but occasionally need to get around the city not using city provided transportation. I find it ridiculous that DC Council would so clearly pander to the Taxicab Commission and harm taxpayers by artificially keeping transportation costs high. If Uber can provide the city with a fleet of all-hybrid vehicles to move the citizenry why not allow them to do so? Taxis are gas guzzling behemoths that do nothing but fill and pollute our streets and air. Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Elizabeth Hearn  
Ward 6 Resident for 10 years.

--

May your hands always be busy, may your feet always be swift, may you have a strong foundation when the winds of changes shift.

**From:** [elizabeth.hearn](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:31:39 AM

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As part of making DC and livable, walkable city every option should be available to those of us who choose not to own cars, but occasionally need to get around the city not using city provided transportation. I find it ridiculous that DC Council would so clearly pander to the Taxicab Commission and harm taxpayers by artificially keeping transportation costs high. If Uber can provide the city with a fleet of all-hybrid vehicles to move the citizenry why not allow them to do so? Taxis are gas guzzling behemoths that do nothing but fill and pollute our streets and air. Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Elizabeth Hearn  
Ward 6 Resident for 10 years.

--

May your hands always be busy, may your feet always be swift, may you have a strong foundation when the winds of changes shift.



**From:** [David Miller](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:24:07 AM

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Dear Council Member,

I am absolutely horrified when I read yesterday that you are planning to vote on this draconian amendment singling out one company to impose a minimum fare standard. Is the DC council so corrupt as to bow to the pandering of the taxi lobby. You are willing to remove the hallmark of a free functioning marketplace by limiting competition via government intervention.

Let the market take care of itself. If a company can revolutionize the transport industry then so be it. By limiting competition you are betraying everything you promised when you were elected.

Sincerely,

David Miller



**From:** [Holland, Joy \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** [Jansen](#)  
**Subject:** Out of Office: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:21:09 AM

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Hello, I am currently out of the office until Tuesday July 10, 2012. If you need assistance please email [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED]

**From:** [Jansen](#)  
**To:** [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Holland, Joy \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Hawkins, Robert \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:21:08 AM

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Councilwoman Bowser -

I understand that the the DC Council is preparing to add the "Uber Amendment" to the taxi modernization bill, which you are voting on this morning. As a Ward 4 resident and your constituent, I urge you to vote against this amendment.

Many parts of this city, including Ward 4, are severely underserved by the taxicab industry. As a resident of Ward 4, it is nearly impossible to find a taxi on the street as you can in many other parts of the city. This is not due to lack of demand; it is due to lack of desire on the part of the taxicab companies and drivers. While illegal for taxi drivers to refuse to take me to Petworth, the disappointing truth is that on several occasions, taxi drivers have come up with a reason that their cab is no longer in service once I provide my address in Ward 4. I have had taxi drivers berate me for taking them out of the downtown area. During times of increased violence in the Petworth area, I feel safer taking a taxi rather than walking home from the metro at night alone. However, many taxi drivers make this difficult.

I have not experienced any of these things when I have used Uber. When I have requested transportation through Uber, a car has actually arrived. Sadly, this has not always been the case the with any of the DC taxi companies I have called in the past. I've never had an Uber driver complain to me about my destination.

Please put the needs of the constituents who you have been elected to represent before the needs of the DC taxicab industry. It is telling that even though Uber often costs more than a taxi, many residents of DC and Ward 4 choose to use Uber anyway. Perhaps free market competition will pressure the taxicab industry to provide a more professional and reliable service to the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Jansen



**From:** [Julie Moore](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:14:12 AM

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Chairman Mendelson, Councilman Evans, and other City Council members:

I am a Uber client and love the service. It's a wonderful alternative to an unreliable and poorly run taxi system that we have in our city. With the Uber amendment that you're voting on today, and which you did not give the community time adequate time for comment, that same taxi system is seeking protection under this amendment.

I cannot believe that you would deprive D.C. residents a **choice** and **alternative** to what is the poorest taxi system I've encountered in the U.S. It is an embarrassment.

I urge that you vote down the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment today. This is just wrong on so many levels. As an **active** city resident, I will be watching your votes. Any of you who vote for the minimum fare language will answer for it at the polling booth; I will never support any of you for your current office, a run for mayor or any other higher office. In fact, I will oppose you. Thousands of others will do the same thing, as this has been going viral.

Julie Moore  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Luke Radlinski](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:14:01 AM

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Councilman Wells-

I am purchasing a condo in Ward 6 next month and will soon be a resident and taxpayer in the District. I use Uber as an alternative to cabs and find their service very efficient. It makes no sense to me that you would mandate them to charge a minimum fare. Is this some sort of giveaway to DC taxi drivers? Because in my opinion, they don't deserve a thing. I can't tell you how many times I've been refused service from DC back to Clarendon just because of my final destination. This is, of course, illegal but a completely common practice. Why would the DC government not want to encourage competition (in this case, via Uber) and improve service for its residents, visitors, tourists, etc? Please let common sense prevail and strike the minimum fare language from this amendment. DC cabs service has been a joke for a long time, and they are certainly not deserving of any sort of handout. Thank you.

Luke Radlinski  
Arlington, VA

Future resident at [REDACTED], DC

**From:** [Erin Short](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:11:43 AM

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Good Morning --

When the Taxi Cab Commission proposed raising fares without committing to fully eliminate surcharges and without agreeing to substantial enhancements in service, I reached out to my Councilman, Jack Evans, twice to ask what he could do for his constituents. Unfortunately, I never received any response from him or anyone on his staff and, as we all know, the fare increases went into effect.

I am now reaching out to all of you to ask you to please stop the ridiculous Uber Amendment. As a resident living in the Dupont Circle neighborhood and working downtown, it's not necessary for me to have a car. Given that, there are times that I have to rely on cabs, which usually leads to frustration and occasionally outrage. Since I have discovered Uber, I have found their service to be reliable, their cars to consistently be in good condition, their drivers friendly and knowledgeable.

The situation at Union Station after midnight (that was chronicled recently in the Washington Post) alone should demonstrate why it is necessary for DC residents to have an alternative to taxi cabs. If that alternative is able to operate at even more reasonable prices, I find it unbelievable that our city government would enact a law to stop them from being able to do so.

I also find it unbelievable that the taxi cab industry has the DC Council so under their power that the Uber Amendment has even been drafted let alone is being considered today. Please vote against this amendment.

Thanks,  
Erin Short  
Dupont Circle (20009)  
Washington, DC

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Leslie Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 9:11:11 AM

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I am a homeowner and taxpayer in Washington, DC. I have never written to my city government before despite all of the scandals and bad management that seems to plague DC because I figure that you all are at least trying to make things better.

Then I saw this Uber Amendment nonsense.

Uber is a service I use frequently because I absolutely cannot stand the condition of this city's cabs. I have traveled the US and the world and I can tell you that ours are some of the worst. They are dirty, have no air conditioning, completely lack shock absorbers and do not take credit cards. I am embarrassed every time I see a tourist get in one of our cabs.

I was recently in Chicago for the NATO summit and was pleased to find a cab fleet that was clean and required to accept credit cards. I'm not sure why a major city like Chicago can figure this out but not DC.

So as long as our elected officials won't put in place regulations to make cabs in this city at least on par with other major cities in the US then you shouldn't be taking away our right to use an alternative service.

I have spoken to many Uber drivers, many of them former cab drivers, and they have unanimously told me that they love the service.

So its a win for drivers and a win for passengers.

You need to stop this nonsense of legislating to protect bad service and restricting competition.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Phillips

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Allen, Charles \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**To:** ["John McKennon"; Andrew Peak](#)  
**Cc:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:54:17 AM

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John and Andrew,

Thanks for your emails last night.

The Councilmember will be headed up to the legislative session shortly, but I'll make sure to share your notes with him before the meeting begins.

[REDACTED]

The larger bill moving through Council is one that is addressing a number of DC taxi system overhauls – everything from requiring credit card machines, GPS positioning, new customer service improvements, and increased number of accessible taxis for individuals with a disability. In addition, part of the taxi cab regulations are there to ensure residents have a right to address discrimination by race and geography within the industry.

[REDACTED]

Thanks again for your emails,  
Charles

\*\*\*\*\*

Charles Allen  
Chief of Staff, Councilmember Tommy Wells  
<http://www.TommyWells.org> - website

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**From:** John McKennon [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:33 PM  
**To:** Andrew Peak; Allen, Charles (COUNCIL); Wells, Thomas (COUNCIL)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment

Good evening Councilman Wells,  
I would like to back-up Andrew's statement. There should be such thing as fair market competition. One already pays more to use Uber than they would a cab. If cabs took credit cards it wouldn't be an issue for most and I would use cabs more often. But every cab I have



gotten into say Cash Only or Credit Card Broken or "I have to charge you a fee" (which by the way is completely against the law for almost all contracts with credit card merchants).

Uber wouldn't be necessary if there wasn't a demand for it and the demand was driven by the lack of services provided by the current taxi cabs.

Please do not allow unfair market practices by selectively surcharging one group of vendors while not the others and do not vote for the amendment.

Best,  
John McKennon  
DC Resident and DC Small Business Owner

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 8:49 PM, Andrew Peak <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Dear Councilman Wells,

As a new constituent of yours I've not had the opportunity to communicate with you until now. I'm **STRONGLY** opposed to the amendment that is about to be voted on regarding increasing the rates for the car service Uber. I, and my friends, are constant users of Uber because the DC Taxis are unreliable, not clean, no air conditioning, don't take credit cards, etc.... Every time I've used Uber it's been a pleasant experience. They always show up when called and it's nice not to have to haggle with them over the price. If the DC Taxis want to compete they need to step up their game and provide better service. It's a fair market competition. Please vote against the amendment.

Thank you,  
Andrew Peak  
John McKennon  
[REDACTED]  
DC, 20001  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ethan Hale](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:54:15 AM

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Dear Sir / Madam,

In a country founded on free enterprise and guided by the entrepreneurial spirit, I am appalled and outraged!

If you haven't already, I strongly suggest you read this [blog post](#) regarding the 'Uber Amendment'.

Please do the right thing and strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to doing the right thing.

Yours sincerely,  
Ethan Hale

P.S. FYI Your name and response will be published in a blog of a 1,000,000 + readers. If you ignore this email, your name will be published as the DC Council-member who chose to ignore my email.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:37:22 AM

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Dear Sir / Madam,

If you haven't already, I strongly suggest you read this blog post <http://www.fourhourworkweek.com/blog/2012/07/10/the-council-that-kicked-the-hornets-nest-a-rare-call-to-action> regarding the 'Uber Amendment'.

Please do the right thing and strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to doing the right thing.

Yours sincerely,

**From:** [Michael Eastman](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:18:58 AM

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Dear Councilman Catania:

It has come to my attention that as early as today, the Council may vote on legislation to curtail the services currently offered by Uber or to limit the ability of this business to expand services inside the District.

I have used D.C. taxicabs regularly for more than 20 years in my personal and professional life. The majority of drivers are hardworking and courteous, but unfortunately the taxicab system within the District suffers from some very serious flaws. Perhaps most obvious among these are the widely inconsistent conditions of the cars, in particular with respect to functioning air conditioning. However, more serious is the problem of finding a car in neighborhoods such as where I live in Brookland. For this reason, I long ago stopped trying to call for District-based cars when I need to be picked up at home, instead calling Arlington's Red Top Cab or a sedan service that could reliably pick me up on time.

Recently, I have been introduced to the Uber service and have found it to be an excellent option. I still use District taxicabs for a majority of my travel, but use Uber for those times when, based on years of experience, finding a cab will be difficult. The quality of service has always been excellent and drivers have never hesitated to take me to Northeast (or more importantly, pick me up there).

The Council should be welcoming this new service that has provided more options for DC commuters and consumers. I urge you to reject proposals to the contrary.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Michael Eastman



Washington, DC 20017

**From:** [Michael Eastman](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:18:11 AM

---

Dear Councilman Brown:

It has come to my attention that as early as today, the Council may vote on legislation to curtail the services currently offered by Uber or to limit the ability of this business to expand services inside the District.

I have used D.C. taxicabs regularly for more than 20 years in my personal and professional life. The majority of drivers are hardworking and courteous, but unfortunately the taxicab system within the District suffers from some very serious flaws. Perhaps most obvious among these are the widely inconsistent conditions of the cars, in particular with respect to functioning air conditioning. However, more serious is the problem of finding a car in neighborhoods such as where I live in Brookland. For this reason, I long ago stopped trying to call for District-based cars when I need to be picked up at home, instead calling Arlington's Red Top Cab or a sedan service that could reliably pick me up on time.

Recently, I have been introduced to the Uber service and have found it to be an excellent option. I still use District taxicabs for a majority of my travel, but use Uber for those times when, based on years of experience, finding a cab will be difficult. The quality of service has always been excellent and drivers have never hesitated to take me to Northeast (or more importantly, pick me up there).

The Council should be welcoming this new service that has provided more options for DC commuters and consumers. I urge you to reject proposals to the contrary.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Michael Eastman



Washington, DC 20017

**From:** [Jennifer Bayat](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:47:44 AM

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I am writing to ask that you consider excluding the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment. As someone who frequently uses public transit, I have been delighted at having an alternative to taxi services particularly when traveling alone at night. I believe that we should encourage a competitive marketplace so that consumers have options and companies are encouraged to provide a high level of service. Currently, many taxi drivers are not incented to provide reliable service - I have had drivers refuse to take me to my destination, complain about my requested destination for the duration of the drive and tell me they were busy with another fare (even though they stopped) because they didn't want to take me where I needed to go. I am a big user of taxis and will continue to do so, but do fully believe we need other alternatives to encourage competition and better service.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bayat

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jennifer Bayat](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:46:43 AM

---

I am writing to ask that you consider excluding the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment. As someone who frequently uses public transit, I have been delighted at having an alternative to taxi services particularly when traveling alone at night. I believe that we should encourage a competitive marketplace so that consumers have options and companies are encouraged to provide a high level of service. Currently, many taxi drivers are not incented to provide reliable service - I have had drivers refuse to take me to my destination, complain about my requested destination for the duration of the drive and tell me they were busy with another fare (even though they stopped) because they didn't want to take me where I needed to go. I am a big user of taxis and will continue to do so, but do fully believe we need other alternatives to encourage competition and better service.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bayat

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [William Collins](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:28:57 AM

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Mr. Wells:

As a long time resident of DC, I am asking you do not pass the UBER Amendment. UBER Service is a great alternative to DC Taxi Cab service that I feel is the worst I have ever experienced in any major metropolitan city. Taxi drivers are selective to whom they will pick up. This is not right. Recently I left a restaurant on a Friday evening and was trying to come back home. There were at least 3 cab drivers that stopped the car and asked me where I was going. If it was not the direction they wanted to go in, then they would not let me in. They lock there doors so you can't get into the car. If you have never experienced this, it is extremely frustrating. I have experienced many rude drivers as well in the past. Filthy cars, no AC, etc. I am sure you have heard these stories before. Make DC Taxi Cab drivers more accountable!!!

Please do not pass the Uber Amendment.

William Collins  
Sherier Place NW



**From:** [William Collins](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:26:04 AM

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Mr. Brown:

As a long time resident of DC, I am asking you to NOT pass the Uber Amendment today. UBER Service is a great alternative to DC Taxi Cab service that I feel is the worst I have ever experienced in any major metropolitan city. Taxi drivers are selective to whom they will pick up. This is not right. Recently I left a restaurant on a Friday evening and was trying to come back home. There were at least 3 cab drivers that stopped the car and asked me where I was going. If it was not the direction they wanted to go in, then they would not let me in. They lock there doors so you can't get into the car. If you have never experienced this, it is extremely frustrating. I have experienced many rude drivers as well in the past. Filthy cars, no AC, etc. I am sure you have heard these stories before.

Please do not pass the Uber Amendment.

William Collins  
Sherier Place NW

**From:** [Julie Philp](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:23:08 AM

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Dear Mr. Evans -

I understand that the D.C. Council is considering voting on an amendment that would raise fare prices on Uber and similar car services, or even disallow those types of businesses to lower their current fares. I am 100% opposed to this amendment. I support having choices and am an Uber user. I prefer to have a clean car to ride in, not one that smells like smoke or other odors. I prefer to have a driver who is attentive to me, not on his or her cell phone having a discussion with someone not in the car. I prefer to have a quiet ride, without loud music or talk radio. I prefer to pay by credit card, not to have to wait for the driver to stop and get change. I prefer to be able to summon a ride by my mobile device, not wave down a cab and have the driver ask me where I am going before I am allowed in the car. I prefer to receive a detailed receipt including my route, not a tiny slip of rolled up paper without a space to include tip.

Uber provides a valuable service to many residents and guests of Washington, D.C. As representatives of our national's capitol, I find it appalling that the D.C. Council is considering limiting my options for transportation. Under no circumstances do I believe that the minimum fare language should be passed.

Thank you,

Julie Philp

[REDACTED]  
# [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

D.C. 20009

**From:** [Lenny Eichsteadt](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:55:11 AM

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Councilman Catania

Please do not support the Uber amendment on the Taxi overhaul bill. The service Uber provides is outstanding. They are reliable, clean, and do not discriminate based on locations. Also, Uber already charges a larger base and minimum fare than a regular taxi in the city. A free market society is what this nation is built on. Raising the fare on Uber would be detrimental to the free market society and create a monopoly causing Uber to close its doors in the city. Please vote against the amendment to raise Uber's fare's.

Lenny Eichsteadt  


**From:** [Pavel Doležal](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:27:42 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning David!

I have heard horrible news today that you, the Washington DC Council, are trying to prevent Uber from being competitive with taxis by ordering Uber to keep their prices a lot higher than low-cost taxis already operating in the city.

**I am asking you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Please be good leaders for Washington DC's people, all Americans and the whole world and show us that you value our liberties and free markets as a true American would.

Sincerely,  
Pavel Doležal

**From:** [Pavel Doležal](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:25:22 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning Tommy!

I have heard horrible news today that you, the Washington DC Council, are trying to prevent Uber from being competitive with taxis by ordering Uber to keep their prices a lot higher than low-cost taxis already operating in the city.

**I am asking you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Please be good leaders for Washington DC's people, all Americans and the whole world and show us that you value our liberties and free markets as a true American would.

Sincerely,  
Pavel Doležal

**From:** [Pavel Doležal](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 6:20:40 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning Michael!

I have heard horrible news today that you, the Washington DC Council, are trying to prevent Uber from being competitive with taxis by ordering Uber to keep their prices a lot higher than low-cost taxis already operating in the city.

**I am asking you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.**

Please be good leaders for Washington DC's people, all Americans and the whole world and show us that you value our liberties and free markets as a true American would.

Sincerely,  
Pavel Doležal

**From:** [Andrew Heisinger](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:28:24 AM

---

Hello,

My name is Andrew Heisinger and I want to firmly implore you to ***strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment***. We elect and trust officials such as yourselves to uphold freedom and act within common sense. Please do not disappoint the American public by doing something foolish and counter to our wishes. Show yourselves to be the people of integrity you claim to be so strongly on the campaign trail.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Heisinger

**From:** [Andrew Heisinger](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:25:52 AM

---

Hello,

My name is Andrew Heisinger and I want to firmly implore you to ***strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment***. We elect and trust officials such as yourselves to uphold freedom and act within common sense. Please do not disappoint the American public by doing something foolish and counter to our wishes. Show yourselves to be the people of integrity you claim to be so strongly on the campaign trail.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Heisinger



**From:** [Andrew Heisinger](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 5:22:44 AM

---

Hello,

My name is Andrew Heisinger and I want to firmly implore you to strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. We elect and trust officials such as yourselves to uphold freedom and act within common sense. Please do not disappoint the American public by doing something foolish and counter to our wishes. Show yourselves to be the people of integrity you claim to be so strongly on the campaign trail.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Heisinger

**From:** [RLD US](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:25:20 AM

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## STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FROM THE UBER AMENDMENT

I am opposed to having any amendment which limits Uber as a car service. Especially the amendment which makes them more expensive than necessary.

They are a terrific service which enhances commerce in DC. Rather than tear them down and obstruct them, improve the taxi service by creating viable competition.

Les Deak

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20007

[REDACTED]

**From:** [RLD US](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:23:55 AM

---

## STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FROM THE UBER AMENDMENT

I am opposed to having any amendment which limits Uber as a car service. Especially the amendment which makes them more expensive than necessary.

They are a terrific service which enhances commerce in DC. Rather than tear them down and obstruct them, improve the taxi service by creating viable competition.

Les Deak

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20007

[REDACTED]

**From:** [RLD US](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:17:28 AM

---

## STRIKE DOWN THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FROM THE UBER AMENDMENT

I am opposed to having any amendment which limits Uber as a car service. Especially the amendment which makes them more expensive than necessary.

They are a terrific service which enhances commerce in DC. Rather than tear them down and obstruct them, improve the taxi service by creating viable competition.

Les Deak

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20007

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Bailey, Marsha](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]; [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 2:13:25 AM

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I am writing to urgently request that you strike down the "minimum fare" language from the Uber Amendment.

Uber is a well-needed service in DC because DC cabs are unreliable, unsafe, and unprofessional. I believe in a market-based solution to improving car service in DC and Uber currently provides an alternative to the terrible service I typically have to endure with DC cabs.

Please do not price this alternative out of the market at the behest of the taxi lobby.

Respectfully,  
Marsha McIntyre Bailey  
Ward 1 resident  
Best regards,  
Marsha

\*\*\*\*\*

This email and any files transmitted with it may contain privileged or confidential information. Use, disclosure, copying or distribution of this message by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of this message in your possession, custody or control.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Charles Riccardi](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:29:57 AM

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Please reconsider discontinuing the **Uber Amendment**. Uber has not only creating an exceptional service for customers, but they have opened a new world for individuals trying to own and run their own business. The opportunities created by the Uber business model have been utterly clear.

Please don't take away something good in this nation.

**A highly satisfied Uber customer,**

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**Charles Riccardi**

**From:** [Craig McNamara](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:42:16 AM

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Congratulations Washington D.C. City Council,

Your corruption knows no bounds as you are a front page internet story everywhere tech entrepreneurs look for news. I'm so glad to hear that you will use legislation to fix prices of an innovative and useful new service so that the average person could never afford to hire a car through Uber. As a frequent visitor to D.C. I'm quite familiar with the taxi situation and Uber could be the cure by competition. So enjoy your moment in the national spotlight of the internet.

I don't think about you much, but when I do, I'm disgusted by your actions.

Respectfully,

-Craig McNamara

p.s. here is the link to the story if you're interested.

<http://techcrunch.com/2012/07/09/dc-city-councils-uber-amendment-would-force-sedans-to-charge-5x-taxi-prices-and-kill-uberx/>

**From:** [Jason Harden](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:04:11 AM

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Mr. Catania,

I am writing to express my extreme dismay at the proposed Uber Amendment scheduled to be voted on tomorrow. I am frankly appalled that legislation as blatantly and explicitly corrupt as this would even be considered. Uber has proven to be an innovative company that has provided quality and reliable transportation service to countless DC residents, which is much more than can be said about traditional DC taxis. If they are able to provide this service at competitive prices, then that is all the better for DC consumers and will open up that service to a wide range of new customers who would then be able to afford it. I am sure, however, that you and your allies in the taxi industry are already well aware of this fact.

The proposed amendment, which is obviously an attempt to prevent Uber from launching their lower priced hybrid vehicles service in order to protect an inferior but established traditional taxicab business with an impressive record of corrupt business practices, makes zero sense from any sort of transportation, public welfare, economic or ethical perspective. It represents one of the most thinly veiled instances of political cronyism I have ever encountered (you couldn't even come up with a better name?), so I suppose I must applaud you and the rest of the committee for your candor. The only logical interpretation of the amendment is that members of the DC City Council such as yourself believe that your standing with a small minority of vested interests in the taxi industry (and no doubt your personal political careers) is more important than the public well being.

While I have little faith in your competence or your integrity and fully expect that this email and the other voices of disappointed voters will fall on deaf ears, I urge you to vote against the proposed amendment tomorrow. I am not sure why you ran for public office, but I will give you the benefit of the doubt and assume you did so with at least good intentions. If that is the case, I don't know how you could possibly justify stifling an entrepreneurial business that has proven able to provide tremendous value to customers and is willing to invest in your area. That investment will create new employment and income opportunities for drivers (albeit outside the taxi industry that has become so cozy with local government) as well as increase the use of environmentally friendly hybrid cars on your streets. It certainly seems as if the various benefits of this opportunity far outweigh the single and comparatively minor cost of reduced profitability for taxis. I will be eagerly and attentively awaiting the council's decision tomorrow.

Sincerely disappointed,  
Jason Harden



**From:** [Jason Harden](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:02:34 AM

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Mr. Wells,

I am writing to express my extreme dismay at the proposed Uber Amendment scheduled to be voted on tomorrow. I am frankly appalled that legislation as blatantly and explicitly corrupt as this would even be considered. Uber has proven to be an innovative company that has provided quality and reliable transportation service to countless DC residents, which is much more than can be said about traditional DC taxis. If they are able to provide this service at competitive prices, then that is all the better for DC consumers and will open up that service to a wide range of new customers who would then be able to afford it. I am sure, however, that you and your allies in the taxi industry are already well aware of this fact.

The proposed amendment, which is obviously an attempt to prevent Uber from launching their lower priced hybrid vehicles service in order to protect an inferior but established traditional taxicab business with an impressive record of corrupt business practices, makes zero sense from any sort of transportation, public welfare, economic or ethical perspective. It represents one of the most thinly veiled instances of political cronyism I have ever encountered (you couldn't even come up with a better name?), so I suppose I must applaud you and the rest of the committee for your candor. The only logical interpretation of the amendment is that members of the DC City Council such as yourself believe that your standing with a small minority of vested interests in the taxi industry (and no doubt your personal political careers) is more important than the public well being.

While I have little faith in your competence or your integrity and fully expect that this email and the other voices of disappointed voters will fall on deaf ears, I urge you to vote against the proposed amendment tomorrow. I am not sure why you ran for public office, but I will give you the benefit of the doubt and assume you did so with at least good intentions. If that is the case, I don't know how you could possibly justify stifling an entrepreneurial business that has proven able to provide tremendous value to customers and is willing to invest in your area. That investment will create new employment and income opportunities for drivers (albeit outside the taxi industry that has become so cozy with local government) as well as increase the use of environmentally friendly hybrid cars on your streets. It certainly seems as if the various benefits of this opportunity far outweigh the single and comparatively minor cost of reduced profitability for taxis. I will be eagerly and attentively awaiting the council's decision tomorrow.

Sincerely disappointed,  
Jason Harden

**From:** [Jason Harden](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 12:00:26 AM

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Mr. Brown,

I am writing to express my extreme dismay at the proposed Uber Amendment scheduled to be voted on tomorrow. I am frankly appalled that legislation as blatantly and explicitly corrupt as this would even be considered. Uber has proven to be an innovative company that has provided quality and reliable transportation service to countless DC residents, which is much more than can be said about traditional DC taxis. If they are able to provide this service at competitive prices, then that is all the better for DC consumers and will open up that service to a wide range of new customers who would then be able to afford it. I am sure, however, that you and your allies in the taxi industry are already well aware of this fact.

The proposed amendment, which is obviously an attempt to prevent Uber from launching their lower priced hybrid vehicles service in order to protect an inferior but established traditional taxicab business with an impressive record of corrupt business practices, makes zero sense from any sort of transportation, public welfare, economic or ethical perspective. It represents one of the most thinly veiled instances of political cronyism I have ever encountered (you couldn't even come up with a better name?), so I suppose I must applaud you and the rest of the committee for your candor. The only logical interpretation of the amendment is that members of the DC City Council such as yourself believe that your standing with a small minority of vested interests in the taxi industry (and no doubt your personal political careers) is more important than the public well being.

While I have little faith in your competence or your integrity and fully expect that this email and the other voices of disappointed voters will fall on deaf ears, I urge you to vote against the proposed amendment tomorrow. I am not sure why you ran for public office, but I will give you the benefit of the doubt and assume you did so with at least good intentions. If that is the case, I don't know how you could possibly justify stifling an entrepreneurial business that has proven able to provide tremendous value to customers and is willing to invest in your area. That investment will create new employment and income opportunities for drivers (albeit outside the taxi industry that has become so cozy with local government) as well as increase the use of environmentally friendly hybrid cars on your streets. It certainly seems as if the various benefits of this opportunity far outweigh the single and comparatively minor cost of reduced profitability for taxis. I will be eagerly and attentively awaiting the council's decision tomorrow.

Sincerely disappointed,  
Jason Harden

**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:58:52 PM

---

To clarify: **Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 11:48 PM, Evan Beard <[REDACTED]> wrote:

As your constituent, I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

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Sent via mobile device

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Sent via mobile device

**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:56:35 PM

---

To clarify: **Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 11:50 PM, Evan Beard <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

--

Sent via mobile device

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Sent via mobile device

**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:56:22 PM

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To clarify: **Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 11:51 PM, Evan Beard <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

--

Sent via mobile device

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Sent via mobile device

**From:** [rmb](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:52:32 PM

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Tommy,

I hope you will vote to oppose the anti-competition amendment in the pending taxi legislation. As it stands, it is nearly impossible to depend on getting a DC cab in a timely manner. Uber provides a degree of certainty that makes it worth a small premium. Requiring them to charge 5 times the basic fair will make the service impossible. The taxi system in DC needs real competition. Perhaps only then will we get clean, air conditioned cabs that come when promised.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Richard Black (Ward 6 resident)

**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:51:25 PM

---

I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

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Sent via mobile device

**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:50:57 PM

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I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

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Sent via mobile device



**From:** [Evan Beard](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:49:15 PM

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As your constituent, I would like you to know I don't want you to vote for the Uber amendment. Uber is a valuable service.

If you vote for the Uber amendment I am not voting for you. You should allow innovation to happen, we don't need protectionist policies or artificially high prices, and I don't want the minimum prices for Uber rides to be held artificially high.

Thanks,

Evan Beard

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Sent via mobile device

**From:** [Christopher Donahoe](#)  
**To:** [Christopher Donahoe](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:36:54 PM

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Dear Council Member -

I was disappointed to learn of the proposal to keep the prices for taxi alternatives artificially high. This proposal limits choice, hurts consumers, negatively disrupts a functioning market, and discourages service innovation.

Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best regards,  
Chris

--

**Christopher Donahoe**



[@chrisdonahoe](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)

**From:** [Jonathan DeFelice](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:27:12 PM

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Dear Members of the DC Council:

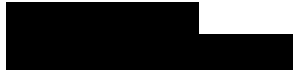
I am writing to ask you respectfully to strike down the minimum fare language from the UBER amendment. Please let this company provide the great service it is to DC/ This is America where free enterprise should be free to operate.

Many thanks.

Jonathan DeFelice

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[Father Jonathan DeFelice, O.S.B.](#)  
[President](#)  
[Saint Anselm College](#)  
[100 Saint Anselm Drive](#)



**From:** [Juli Bongiorno](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 11:10:09 PM

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Dear DC City Council,

It has come to my attention that in tomorrow session as a part of the taxi modernization bill that amendment 8(C) nicknamed the "Uber Amendment" has been included. I live in the Southwest quadrant and its virtually impossible to flag down a cab here. Attempts to call a tax prove unfruitful as companies can take upwards of an hours to fulfill your request. Some cab drivers refuse to take me home because of my apartment's location.

I urge you to strike down this amendment. Setting the sedan minimum at 5 x the cost of a taxi is unfair to the very individuals you serve, the residents of the District of Columbia. It restricts residents freedom of access to affordable alternative to DC's inadequate taxi services.

Please show your commitment to the residents of DC, the environment, entrepreneurship and shared transit. Thank you for your consideration and I hope you make the right decision tomorrow and strike down amendment 8 (c) to the taxi modernization act.

Best,

--

Julianne Bongiorno  
Executive Editor, 2011-2012  
Journal of International Commercial Law  
George Mason University School of Law  
Tel: (202) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Alexis Herman](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:40:37 PM

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Mr. Wells,

I'm not sure if you've taken a ride in a DC taxicab lately. If you have, I'm sure this email serves no purpose, as you would agree with the following sentiment. If you haven't, I hope this is a gentle reminder.

Our taxi service in DC is lower than sub-par. The cars are uncomfortable at best; dirty most often. Our taxi drivers are worse than their cars when it comes to service, reliability, and safety. I believe many in DC would agree with me that they are usually the last possible resource. Already this week, a friend visiting was trying to get from Capitol Hill to Dupont Circle. The taxicab driver decided to take her on a monument tour, taking obvious advantage of her. Is this the "service" we want to promote? Is this the image of our city that you want to stand behind?

Uber has provided many of us with a clean, friendly, trustworthy environment for the first time in years. I love Uber's ease of service, customer dedication, clean cars and straightforward guidelines. Why would you try to take that away from your ward by making them too expensive for most?

We rely on Uber because the taxicabs aren't up to the challenge of improving themselves. Please don't give them the power to continue degrading. Stand up for our rights, needs, and desires. Vote down the uber amendment.

Sincerely,  
Lexi Herman  
Ward 6

**From:** [Karl Frisch](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:32:19 PM

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Each of you represent me on the DC city council and each of you has earned my vote in the past for one reason or another.

I'll keep this short. Please strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. If you support the amendment with the language you will lose my vote for good and I will organize my friends, family, and colleagues to oppose your reelections and any efforts to achieve higher office.

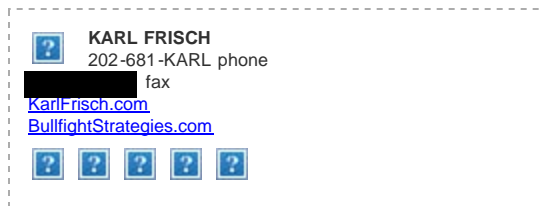
Now is the perfect time to show your independence from the cab commission.

Karl Frisch

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Nicolas Renold](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:19:27 PM

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Council Members,

DC policymakers should strive for open, transparent, competitive and non-discriminatory markets. In exchange, DC should expect openness and accountability from its licensees and economic participants.

Unfortunately, the proposed amendment to the taxi modernization bill you are considering tomorrow will result in more discrimination and less competition, perpetuating a sector of our economy that has rampant and persistent issues with accountability.

I share your concerns with DC's taxi fleet. Because taxi drivers in DC willfully ignore fee structures, I am regularly charged in error for stops, additional passengers, luggage or gas premiums, even when such fees are not in effect. Furthermore, I am subject to heavily polluting automobiles that are maintained at a standard far below what our environmental expectations for a "modern fleet" should be.

You have proposed some solutions to these problems, such as use of GPS and credit cards. I applaud these efforts to promote greater accountability and oversight to the taxi system.

Recently, however, the transportation committee proposed "minimum fare" language in section 8c of the Taxi Improvement Bill that runs in the opposite direction, and makes current problems worse.

There is zero public interest for mandating a price floor for sedan and competitive alternatives to taxi service. This regulation will destroy an otherwise functioning marketplace to unfairly and unreasonably benefit a single, small group of people: taxi drivers. In particular, efforts to mandate sedan service at a starting basis of 5 times (!!!) the taxi rate smack of the hubris one could only expect from a coddled and monopoly special interest group. One company, Uber, has already acknowledged such a restriction would prevent them from bringing environmentally-improving hybrid sedan service to DC -- a service they recently introduced in other markets.

Given that services like Uber -- the clear target of this action -- have become popular in DC because of their improved service, I would expect a large and vocal backlash to any actions taken to limit competition in the market. Furthermore, because DC is a prominent American city, and because these services exist in other cities, it is fair to say that your actions will be noted and subject to some national and international commentary, critique and scrutiny. Why does Washington, DC, in the middle of an economic recovery, want to signal anticompetitive and special-interest protectionism to future

potential employers who may wish to locate here?

I urge you to reconsider this amendment and actions to limit competition in an economic sector you rightly know is in woeful need of updating.

Sincerely,

--

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Northwestern University  
McCormick School of Engineering  
Class of 2011



**From:** [gerry.pantoja](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:13:23 PM

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Dear Mr. Catania,

As a resident of the District of Columbia (Columbia Heights, Ward 1) I am frustrated with the current taxi cab service we have in the city. On several occasion I have been denied service because the taxi driver doesn't want to drive me to my location (they will ask where I want to go before I get in and then refuse to let me in) or because he will not stop off at an atm for me to get cash. Uber provides an outstanding service and makes my life easier when looking for a cab. I can count on them to pick me up and take me where I need to go **with out question** and not wait 10 minutes to find a cab that is "willing." They also make it easier because they take credit cards; I still don't get why the current system hasn't integrated this (VA cabs take credit cards).

I am a fan and supporter of Uber cab and to hear that the city council is trying to prevent a cheaper service that Uber is trying to provide is appalling. I urge you to strike down the language to this amendment (section 8C) that will prevent Uber from providing and allowing the residents of DC access to a better taxi service and experience.

I thank you for your time and I hope you make the right call.

Regards,  
Gerry

**From:** [Allison Perez](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:11:54 PM

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As a DC resident, I find the minimum fair language of the UBER Amendment to be both grossly unfair and a great disservice to DC residents. I have found the UBER experience to far exceed that of the DC cab service. I also am appalled to know that you are punishing the UBER car service as they attempt to go green - something we should support, not discourage. I expect you to work in the best interest of the DC residents that elected you to our positions and not a government bureaucracy such as the taxi commission.

Your vote in this issue is something that I will remember when I go to the polls. Do what you know is right and strike down the minimum fair language in the UBER Amendment.

Allison

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20007

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Randall Shore](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:10:17 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

Sincerely,

Randy Shore

**From:** [gerry.pantoja](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:09:29 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

As a resident of the District of Columbia (Columbia Heights, Ward 1) I am frustrated with the current taxi cab service we have in the city. On several occasion I have been denied service because the taxi driver doesn't want to drive me to my location (they will ask where I want to go before I get in and then refuse to let me in) or because he will not stop off at an atm for me to get cash. Uber provides an outstanding service and makes my life easier when looking for a cab. I can count on them to pick me up and take me where I need to go **with out question** and not wait 10 minutes to find a cab that is "willing." They also make it easier because they take credit cards; I still don't get why the current system hasn't integrated this (VA cabs take credit cards).

I am a fan and supporter of Uber cab and to hear that the city council is trying to prevent a cheaper service that Uber is trying to provide is appalling. I urge you to strike down the language to this amendment (section 8C) that will prevent Uber from providing and allowing the residents of DC access to a better taxi service and experience.

I thank you for your time and I hope you make the right call.

Regards,  
Gerry

**From:** [Randall Shore](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:08:49 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells,

Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC.

As a DC resident and Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

Sincerely,

Randy Shore

**From:** [Ben Champa](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:08:03 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

I am writing you to ask that you to support the efforts to strike the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment." I am a ten year resident of Capitol Hill and sometimes user of transportation provided through the Uber service, I feel that the city should encourage these types of innovative transportation solutions instead of continuing to support a broken taxi system. I have found Uber to be a helpful and reliable form of transportation which unfortunately is not always the case with the cab service. Beside the normal issues I have experienced with cab drivers, which have been detailed in the media, I find them unreliable when we need them the most. Even when calling for a cab the night before, they often are late and sometimes do not show for early morning airport runs. When trying to catch a 6am flight, metro is not an option.

It is clear the current taxi system is broken and needs serious reform. Therefore it is disappointing to see them continually propped up by the city government. Please work with the other members of the Council to ensure Uber, and what will no doubt be others like them soon, will remain a choice for residents of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Champa



Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Adam Kunicki](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 10:00:03 PM

---

Dear Council Members,

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment. Uber has been providing our city with a valuable service. Their transportation is clean and courteous unlike every DC taxi I've ever had the displeasure of riding in (when they actually show up). DC taxi drivers also love to take you in circles or roundabout ways to hike up their fare unless you keep directing them. This lack of professionalism is main the reason I prefer Uber over any DC taxi service.

Sincerely,  
Adam Kunicki

**From:** [JT](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:53:11 PM

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Dear Councilman Catania,

As a DC resident, I would like to urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the DC Uber amendment. It is concerning that the DC Council would pass an amendment with language that requires a business to charge the residents of the district more than it would like to charge and prevent them from offering a cheaper (and most Uber user would argue, far superior) alternative to our current pathetic taxi service that is frankly an embarrassment to the city that should aspire to be the nation's showplace. Competition from Uber should be welcomed and I feel would do nothing but force taxi vendors to improve their service or be weeded out. -- Jerry Thomas MD

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:52:46 PM

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Dear Council Member Wells,

I am a resident of and active voter in Ward 6 and I am writing to you tonight to express my sincere hopes that tomorrow you will vote to strike down the Minimum Fare language from the UBER Amendment. UBER provides superb service and I do not wish to see their service compromised in any way, nor do I wish to pay more for what already is a more expensive car service. I will be following your vote, which may very well be determinative of how I will vote in your next election, not to mention how I may choose to advise my friends and neighbors to vote, as politics is my passion.

Sincerely Yours,  
George H. Davila, Esq.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [JT](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:51:15 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

As a DC resident, I would like to urge you to vote against the minimum fare language in the DC Uber amendment. It is concerning that the DC Council would pass an amendment with language that requires a business to charge the residents of the district more than it would like to charge and prevent them from offering a cheaper (and most Uber user would argue, far superior) alternative to our current pathetic taxi service that is frankly an embarrassment to the city that should aspire to be the nation's showplace. Competition from Uber should be welcomed and I feel would do nothing but force taxi vendors to improve their service or be weeded out. -- Jerry Thomas MD

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Megan Erhardt](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:42:20 PM

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Dear DC Council Members,

As someone who lives and works in DC, I rely on public transportation daily. Although I still take Taxis regularly, Uber has provided a high-quality, affordable alternative, thus fostering competition in an already monopolized market. Setting a floor on Uber's fares will only cost DC residents more money and prohibit eco-friendly alternatives to regular public transportation.

I urge you to vote "No" tomorrow to the "Minimum Fare" language in the Uber amendment. As Thomas Jefferson said in his first inaugural address: "[A] wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement...."

Sincerely,  
Meghan Erhardt

**From:** [John McKennon](#)  
**To:** [Andrew Peak](#); [Allen, Charles \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:32:52 PM

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Good evening Councilman Wells,

I would like to back-up Andrew's statement. There should be such thing as fair market competition. One already pays more to use Uber than they would a cab. If cabs took credit cards it wouldn't be an issue for most and I would use cabs more often. But every cab I have gotten into say Cash Only or Credit Card Broken or "I have to charge you a fee" (which by the way is completely against the law for almost all contracts with credit card merchants).

Uber wouldn't be necessary if there wasn't a demand for it and the demand was driven by the lack of services provided by the current taxi cabs.

Please do not allow unfair market practices by selectively surcharging one group of vendors while not the others and do not vote for the amendment.

Best,  
John McKennon  
DC Resident and DC Small Business Owner

On Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 8:49 PM, Andrew Peak <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Dear Councilman Wells,

As a new constituent of yours I've not had the opportunity to communicate with you until now. I'm STRONGLY opposed to the amendment that is about to be voted on regarding increasing the rates for the car service Uber. I, and my friends, are constant users of Uber because the DC Taxis are unreliable, not clean, no air conditioning, don't take credit cards, etc.... Every time I've used Uber it's been a pleasant experience. They always show up when called and it's nice not to have to haggle with them over the price. If the DC Taxis want to compete they need to step up their game and provide better service. It's a fair market competition. Please vote against the amendment.

Thank you,  
Andrew Peak  
John McKennon  
[REDACTED]  
DC, 20001  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Greg Fortunato](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:14:30 PM

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Dear Mr. Mendelson and colleagues,

I am writing to you to urge you not to set a price floor on viable alternatives to taxis. Low-cost transportation is absolutely vital to a vibrant economy, and as a young professional that does not live near a metro station, I often find taxis prohibitively expensive late at night, and am prevented from going out to shows, sporting events, and bars, where I would otherwise be spending money in the city and driving the economy. If you have taken a 100 level economics class, you must know that price floors are folly, and simply throw the market out of equilibrium, artificially restricting the amount of demand for taxi alternatives. Consumers get less service at a higher price.

In doing so, you show strong favoritism of the entrenched taxi industry, which is advocating simply on its own behalf and not in the interests of DC residents and commuters. On a moral level, it is not fair for you to decide the rate at which two parties enter a transaction. It is a gross violation of economic freedom. I thank you for your time, and hope that you act against the monopolistic control of transportation costs.

Sincerely,

Greg Fortunato

**From:** [tim wroble](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:14:17 PM

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Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,

Tim  
Washington DC Resident

**From:** [Edward LeSage](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 9:10:15 PM

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To whom it may concern:

Please do not pass the amendment that prevents uber cab from rolling out a more inexpensive service with their hybrid fleet.

I love uber, and DC cabs are the worst I've ever experienced in the U.S. I think DC cabs should be cheaper and they should be REQUIRED to accept credit cards.

Sincerely,  
Edward LeSage DC Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Liz Sessler](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:57:45 PM

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Mr. Wells,

I currently reside in Ward 6 at 1530 Marion St NW, Washington DC 20001. I am writing to ask that you please reject the so-called [Uber amendment](#) to the taxi modernization bill.

I often use our city's taxicabs. However, as someone who resides in an area not frequented by taxicabs, it's often difficult for me to hail a cab. When you call to dispatch a cab, it can take upwards of 30 minutes after you wait on hold for an equivalent amount of time.

Uber has become invaluable as a safe alternative to walking or driving at night when I am coming home from friend's homes in more residential neighborhoods or in neighborhoods like H St. NE where cabs are scarce. A ride is there when I want it, and the drivers are polite and courteous. The black cars are fancier than I need, which is why I support Uber's efforts to bring lower cost, on-demand cars to our city. Not to mention they are talking about using hybrid vehicles that would be better for the environment and sharing some of the cost savings with DC residents.

Uber informed me that the Council is considering legislation that would set an artificial floor for Uber's services. The City has no business setting minimum fares many times that of alternative modes of transportation merely to protect entrenched interests. Some healthy competition will encourage taxi drivers to keep their cabs clean and well-maintained, and treat their customers with respect.

Frankly, I am tired of the D.C. taxi lobby consistently fighting to resist healthy competition and regulatory improvements as they continually demand higher and higher fares. The fact that cabs in DC actively discriminate against location, refuse to take credit cards, and constantly talk on their cell phones while driving frustrates me and is one of the reasons why I am a frequent Uber user.

Please, let Uber compete and reject the amendment in its entirety.

I look forward to knowing your views on this issue and how you voted.

Sincerely,

Susan (Liz) Sessler



**From:** [Andrew Peak](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [John McKennon](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:49:55 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

As a new constituent of yours I've not had the opportunity to communicate with you until now. I'm **STRONGLY** opposed to the amendment that is about to be voted on regarding increasing the rates for the car service Uber. I, and my friends, are constant users of Uber because the DC Taxis are unreliable, not clean, no air conditioning, don't take credit cards, etc.... Every time I've used Uber it's been a pleasant experience. They always show up when called and it's nice not to have to haggle with them over the price. If the DC Taxis want to compete they need to step up their game and provide better service. It's a fair market competition. Please vote against the amendment.

Thank you,  
Andrew Peak  
John McKennon  
[REDACTED]  
DC, 20001  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mustafa Popal](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:46:25 PM

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I'm writing as a tax-paying resident and Uber supporter to voice my strong objection to the Council's "Uber Amendment." The amendment is un-American and wrong. It stifles competition and props up a taxicab system that is in desperate need of reform. Punishing an effective and well-run alternative is protectionism reminiscent of a communist system beholden to politics vs. free market competition. We expect the DC Council to respect and protect America's fundamental economic principles and the rights of DC consumers.

Make the right choice and strike down the amendment!

**From:** [Jane Volkema](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:44:24 PM

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Dear Council Members,

As you plan to vote tomorrow, I ask that you consider my situation.

As a single woman who does not drive at night and I appreciate the service of Uber as a safety factor:

- I do not need to walk to a main thoroughfare to flag down a cab.
- I do not need to pay an extra pick-up fee.
- I can see on my iPhone when the car will arrive.
- They always show up.
- I know who is going to pick me up because I have received a photo of the driver, his name and vehicle plate number.
- The driver welcomes me by my first name.
- I do not need to carry cash or credit/debit card.
- The driver waits to see that I am safely in my home before driving off for his next fare.

Please do not penalize my sense of safety! Allow Uber to offer fair and competitive prices to the alternative taxi services.

Thank you,  
Jane K. Volkema

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20007  
Ward 2

**From:** [Ian Goldin](#)  
**To:** [Ian Goldin](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:34:01 PM

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DC finally has the chance for a low-cost all-hybrid fleet of cabs and the City Council wants to block it? Taxi drivers are good enough at screwing customers over on their own -- please do not help them. DC residents have the right to choose. DO NOT enact a price floor.

v/r,

Ian Goldin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], DC 20010

**From:** [Eric Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:21:03 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I received an email from Uber today about an amendment that will adversely impact their ability to lower their prices, innovate, and serve their customers.

It is my hope that you will oppose the amendment in question and any efforts to do so in the future. As an advocate for a more livable, walkable city, I know you understand the value of innovative ride-sharing options.

I've been using Uber since they came to DC and have found them to be a valuable addition to our transportation options. The benefits of Uber are well known - convenience, reliability, credit card payments, and quality.

I hope DC will be a place where innovators like Uber will be welcomed and can thrive.

All my best,

Eric Wilson



**From:** [Shailesh Sahay](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:06:57 PM

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Dear City Council members,

I am a former DC resident who still works downtown. I understand that tomorrow you are considering "Uber Amendments" in conjunction with legislation intended to improve the service provided by traditional taxi services. I am writing to ask that you not pass any legislation that would hamper healthy competition in the transportation industry.

It is my understanding that the "Uber Amendments" would require Uber to charge a minimum fee that would preclude it from offering lower priced services. Such a law would rather obviously reduce transportation options and hamper the citizens of DC. Taxis should face fair competition, and attract customers by improving service quality rather than by legislating away competition. Please vote against the taxi special interests by voting against an Uber fare minimum.

Sincerely,

Shailesh R. Sahay

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Cell: (617) [REDACTED]

**From:** [John Hagner](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 8:00:06 PM

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Hello Councilman Brown -

My name is John Hagner, and I'm a resident and voter in Ward 1. I have never written into your office before, but I wanted to ask you to vote no on the "Uber Amendment", to require a fare of 5 times the taxi drop. I rely on Uber service for transportation - I was mugged on my own block (12th Place NW) twice in the last 4 months, and I rely on Uber to get me safely home after dark. I frequently need to be at the airport before dawn, and I cannot count on DC Cabs to come get me and I don't feel safe leaving my house, and Uber has been a lifesaver. If DC's cabs see Uber as a threat, they should be forced to improve their service and take credit cards and compete.

Respectfully,

John Hagner  


**From:** [John Hagner](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:58:52 PM

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Hello Councilman Catania -

My name is John Hagner, and I'm a resident and voter in Ward 1. I have never written into your office before, but I wanted to ask you to vote no on the "Uber Amendment", to require a fare of 5 times the taxi drop. I rely on Uber service for transportation - I was mugged on my own block (12th Place NW) twice in the last 4 months, and I rely on Uber to get me safely home after dark. I frequently need to be at the airport before dawn, and I cannot count on DC Cabs to come get me and I don't feel safe leaving my house, and Uber has been a lifesaver. If DC's cabs see Uber as a threat, they should be forced to improve their service and take credit cards and compete.

Respectfully,

John Hagner  




**From:** [jose ortiz](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:35:27 PM

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Dear Councilmember Catania:

I have been a customer of UBER and recently learned of an amendment that would make it impossible for them to offer lower priced alternatives to taxis.

I urge you to please STRIKE THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FORM THE UBER AMENDMENT.

In a modern and international city such as Washington, DC, it is important that the citizens and visitors have other option when choosing travel.

Thank you,  
Jose Ortiz

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [jose ortiz](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:34:31 PM

---


Dear Councilmember Brown:

I have been a customer of UBER and recently learned of an amendment that would make it impossible for them to offer lower priced alternatives to taxis.

I urge you to please STRIKE THE MINIMUM FARE LANGUAGE FORM THE UBER AMENDMENT.

I am modern and international city such as Washington, DC, it is important that the citizens and visitors have other option when choosing travel.

Thank you,  
Jose Ortiz

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Christian Bonilla](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:29:28 PM

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Mr. Wells,

As a city resident, taxpayer and free market advocate, I hope that you will not vote to artificially inflate the price of uber's fares in the name of protecting taxi drivers. They have been insulated from competition for too long, and offering better taxi service should be their takeaway from uber's emergence, not constraining the market and punishing citizens. Regardless of the sophistry or legal acrobatics put forward to the public, setting a price floor to reduce innovation in the transportation services market simply charges the rest of us to protect a select few.

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the uber amendment.

Sincerely,  
Christian M. Bonilla

**From:** [Dennis Daisey](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:21:12 PM

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Dear Mr. Graham, Mr. Catania, and Mr. Orange,

I am a resident of Ward 1 and I am writing to encourage you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that you are schedule to vote on tomorrow, July 10th. As a proud DC resident I am committed to urban living and do not own a car. Having various affordable means of transportation available to me makes this possible. Many times I depend on taxis to get to certain parts of the city that aren't as well served by buses and metro and I think it is unfair that the Council would limit the free market's ability to serve the needs of residents like myself and encourage competition and affordable transportation to the population of Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Dennis Daisey



**From:** [Duane Muller](#)  
**To:** [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:12:23 PM

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Dear Councilmember Graham:

As a long time DC/Mt Pleasant resident, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment. Last week, Uber announced a roll out of a lower cost service called UberX, a less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. Because of the Uber amendment to the taxi modernization bill, we may not get to enjoy a similar service here in DC. As a long time DC resident and strong Uber supporter, I urge you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment in the Taxi Improvement Bill immediately (section 8C), and allow Uber to continue to set their own price for services they provide.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Duane Muller



DC 20009

**From:** [Michael Singer](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:10:19 PM

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Dear Council Members,

Your proposed "Uber Amendment" is appalling and illegitimate.

The taxi service in the District of Columbia is the worst I have ever encountered in my travels around much of the world. It would be a source of shame in many Third World countries. As elected officials supposedly acting on behalf of the populace of the District of Columbia, you should be helping to introduce every kind of competition to this wretched taxi service, not stifling competition. Uber should be encouraged, not thwarted.

We deserve better from you than this proposed amendment.

Michael Singer

-----  
Professor Michael Singer  
The Plaza #701  
800 25th Street NW  
Washington DC 20037-2208

**From:** [Nicholas G. Green](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:00:23 PM

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Councilman Catania,

As a resident of the Capitol Hill neighborhood, I strongly urge you to vote against any amendment that would restrict Uber's ability to provide a low-cost alternative to taxis in the District.

I can attest to the difficulty of getting a taxicab to and from Capitol Hill, particularly when arriving late night at Union Station -- all because cab drivers apparently feel that it is not a long enough distance (read: high enough fare) to justify losing their spot in the taxi queue. This is assuming, of course, that there are any taxis in the queue at Union Station late a night. The alternative, before Uber, was to walk 1.5 miles home late at night, with luggage, and inevitably becoming a target for crime.

I have since found Uber to be a great alternative, and a market competitor that offers a better service than taxis -- which will inevitably lead to better service among taxis. A win-win for residents of the District.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Green



Washington, D.C.

**From:** [Nicholas G. Green](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:59:49 PM

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Councilman Brown,

As a resident of the Capitol Hill neighborhood, I strongly urge you to vote against any amendment that would restrict Uber's ability to provide a low-cost alternative to taxis in the District.

I can attest to the difficulty of getting a taxicab to and from Capitol Hill, particularly when arriving late night at Union Station -- all because cab drivers apparently feel that it is not a long enough distance (read: high enough fare) to justify losing their spot in the taxi queue. This is assuming, of course, that there are any taxis in the queue at Union Station late a night. The alternative, before Uber, was to walk 1.5 miles home late at night, with luggage, and inevitably becoming a target for crime.

I have since found Uber to be a great alternative, and a market competitor that offers a better service than taxis -- which will inevitably lead to better service among taxis. A win-win for residents of the District.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Green



Washington, D.C.



**From:** [Ryan Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:50:57 PM

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Councilman Catania,

I am writing you today to voice concern regarding the so called "Uber Amendment" to the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012. The Amendment includes language setting an artificial price floor to Uber's services of 5 times the minimum cab fare. Ms. Cheh, the amendment's sponsor claims this will serve to protect consumers.

However, the only thing this will accomplish is to needlessly regulate a private company and protect the interests of the DC Taxicab Commission that is historically rife with corruption and consistently delivers a sub-par product.

I urge you to vote strike the minimum fare language from the Amendment and protect the rights of businesses in Washington DC by allowing them to set their own prices for their services.

--

Best,  
Ryan P Walsh

**From:** [Ryan Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:49:35 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I am writing you today to voice concern regarding the so called "Uber Amendment" to the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012. The Amendment includes language setting an artificial price floor to Uber's services of 5 times the minimum cab fare. Ms. Cheh, the amendment's sponsor claims this will serve to protect consumers.

However, the only thing this will accomplish is to needlessly regulate a private company and protect the interests of the DC Taxicab Commission that is historically rife with corruption and consistently delivers a sub-par product.

I urge you to vote strike the minimum fare language from the Amendment and protect the rights of businesses in Washington DC by allowing them to set their own prices for their services.

--

Best,  
Ryan P Walsh

**From:** [Anthony Fragale](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:48:13 PM

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Dear Mr. Catania,  
Please do not ban Uber from expanding their offerings in Washington, DC. The citizens of Washington deserve alternatives to cabs. They should all be allowed to compete in a free and open market.

Thank you,  
Anthony Fragale



DC 20010

**From:** [Ryan Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:47:16 PM

---

Councilman Brown,

I am writing you today to voice concern regarding the so called "Uber Amendment" to the Taxicab Service Improvement Amendment Act of 2012. The Amendment includes language setting an artificial price floor to Uber's services of 5 times the minimum cab fare. Ms. Cheh, the amendment's sponsor claims this will serve to protect consumers.

However, the only thing this will accomplish is to needlessly regulate a private company and protect the interests of the DC Taxicab Commission that is historically rife with corruption and consistently delivers a sub-par product.

I urge you to vote strike the minimum fare language from the Amendment and protect the rights of businesses in Washington DC by allowing them to set their own prices for their services.

--



Best,  
Ryan P Walsh

**From:** [Anthony Fragale](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:46:22 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,  
Please do not ban Uber from expanding their offerings in Washington DC. The citizens of Washington deserve alternatives to cabs to compete in a fair and open marketplace.

Thank you,  
Anthony Fragale

  
, DC 20010

**From:** [Larry Fichter](#)  
**To:** [Larry Fichter](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:44:12 PM

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Dear Sir &/or Madame,

To start, I am not affiliated in any way with Uber nor any other competing service provider. I am simply a consumer and a voter who is greatly offended by the blatant attempt by certain government officials to shamelessly single out a single provider for punitive laws. Short of the money that existing taxicab providers may line your reelection campaigns with, there is no valid reason why the government would MANDATE that one provider's prices need by 5x existing providers. In our nation's capital, no less! The Uber Amendment is nothing more than government attempting to penalize new businesses with only 1 loser. No, not Uber, they will actually win because of the publicity from this corrupt attempt to hurt them; the only loser is the consumer. Remember them? The people who voted you into office and for whom you are supposed to look out? Price competition is a boon to consumers, not a danger. The American Way and capitalism are built on ever-changing competition. I implore you to vote with your electorate in mind, not your campaign's coffers.

Sincerely,  
Larry Fichter

**From:** [Laura Terry](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:40:23 PM

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Dear Council Member-At-Large Catania:

As a twelve-year resident of D.C., I am writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the [Uber](#) Amendment being voted on tomorrow.

Uber has greatly improved the standard of living for my husband and myself in this city. For example, if my husband and I go to a dinner party or restaurant on Capitol Hill, it is impossible for us to get a taxi to pick us up to return to our Logan Circle home, *even though we have called specifically for a taxi*. With Uber, a car *always* comes when it says it will and much, much more quickly than any cab has. Uber has also enabled us to enjoy more of this city in a safer way than ever before. Specifically, I believe that it discourages driving under the influence when NW residents travel to places like the H Street corridor and all the other neighborhoods not frequented by cabs. Finally, as a woman, I feel safer knowing that I will not have to stand alone to try to hail a cab after a meal out with friends, but instead can simply walk out to meet my Uber driver.

Please do not let the taxi cab lobby crush such a great service that is trying to make itself available to more of the city's demographic. I truly believe that a larger, more economical Uber service in Washington, D.C. will improve the safety of everyone in this city, while at the same time encouraging D.C. residents to enjoy more parts of the city -- including up-and-coming neighborhoods not traditionally on the taxi cab circuit. Competition to the city's taxi cabs can also only work to improve the condition and responsiveness of those vehicles, which ultimately benefits everyone who has to take them.

Thank you very much,  
Laura K. Terry

**From:** [Laura Terry](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:38:46 PM

---

Dear Council Member Wells:

As a twelve-year resident of D.C., I am writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the [Uber](#) Amendment being voted on tomorrow.

Uber has greatly improved the standard of living for my husband and myself in this city. For example, if my husband and I go to a dinner party or restaurant on Capitol Hill, it is impossible for us to get a taxi to pick us up to return to our Logan Circle home, *even though we have called specifically for a taxi*. With Uber, a car *always* comes when it says it will and much, much more quickly than any cab has. Uber has also enabled us to enjoy more of this city in a safer way than ever before. Specifically, I believe that it discourages driving under the influence when NW residents travel to places like the H Street corridor and all the other neighborhoods not frequented by cabs. Finally, as a woman, I feel safer knowing that I will not have to stand alone to try to hail a cab after a meal out with friends, but instead can simply walk out to meet my Uber driver.

Please do not let the taxi cab lobby crush such a great service that is trying to make itself available to more of the city's demographic. I truly believe that a larger, more economical Uber service in Washington, D.C. will improve the safety of everyone in this city, while at the same time encouraging D.C. residents to enjoy more parts of the city -- including up-and-coming neighborhoods not traditionally on the taxi cab circuit. Competition to the city's taxi cabs can also only work to improve the condition and responsiveness of those vehicles, which ultimately benefits everyone who has to take them.

Thank you very much,  
Laura K. Terry



**From:** [Laura Terry](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:36:09 PM

---

Dear Council Member Cheh:

As a twelve-year resident of D.C., I am writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber Amendment being voted on tomorrow.

Uber has greatly improved the standard of living for my husband and myself in this city. For example, if my husband and I go to a dinner party or restaurant on Capitol Hill, it is impossible for us to get a taxi to pick us up to return to our Logan Circle home, *even though we have called specifically for a taxi*. With Uber, a car *always* comes when it says it will and much, much more quickly than any cab has. Uber has also enabled us to enjoy more of this city in a safer way than ever before. Specifically, I believe that it discourages driving under the influence when NW residents travel to places like the H Street corridor and all the other neighborhoods not frequented by cabs. Finally, as a woman, I feel safer knowing that I will not have to stand alone to try to hail a cab after a meal out with friends, but instead can simply walk out to meet my Uber driver.

Please do not let the taxi cab lobby crush such a great service that is trying to make itself available to more of the city's demographic. I truly believe that a larger, more economical Uber service in Washington, D.C. will improve the safety of everyone in this city, while at the same time encouraging D.C. residents to enjoy more parts of the city -- including up-and-coming neighborhoods not traditionally on the taxi cab circuit.

Competition to the city's taxi cabs can also only work to improve the condition and responsiveness of those vehicles, which ultimately benefits everyone who has to take them.

Thank you very much,  
Laura K. Terry

**From:** [Bill Smith](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:34:42 PM

---

Hi Councilman Wells-

I am a constituent of yours. My partner and I live on East Capitol Street and were supporters of your last campaign (and hopefully for your mayoral campaign). We hope you will vote to strike the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment" when the Council votes tomorrow on the taxi modernization legislation.

Uber is an excellent alternative service to DC taxi cabs, we use it quite frequently, and for the DC govt to mandate higher costs for Uber just to protect bad service from taxi companies is anti-competitive and an inappropriate intrusion of government into the marketplace. We hope you will let the free market prevail.

Thank you,

Bill Smith



**From:** [Casey Phillips](#)  
**To:** [Casey Phillips](#)  
**Subject:** UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:33:43 PM

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Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the UBER Amendment tomorrow, I use the UBER service regularly and from my home cab service is very unreliable, it sometimes takes the cab companies 45 minutes or more to get me for a ride to the airport, UBER is more responsive and their drivers try harder plus their billing is much more convenient for my business.

Please Please Please vote to remove the minimum fare requirement is is not fair and maybe a little competition would be good for the taxi business.

Casey Phillips



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Matthew Aichele](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:30:28 PM

---

I am writing to ask you to please strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#). To vote otherwise would be an unfair interference in the consumer's right to choose a safe and clean service, as well as a serious impediment on citizens who wish to travel safely in this city. I have used Uber to take multiple trips to the hospital and to my doctor's office, when no cabs were available. I have used it to travel late at night, when it was not safe to stand in the street waiting for a cab.

Choose competition. Vote against protectionism and racketeering. Don't be a sleaze.

Matthew Aichele

**From:** [DeHart, Bridgette](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:27:26 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**Dear City Council Members:**

**I am writing to ask that you strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.**

Uber is a quick, reliable and safe mode of transportation for all district residents. As I native Washingtonian, who does not have a car or a license, taxi cabs are an important mode of transportation for me. Uber, in particular Urber X, also offers the affordability that I and many others seek while being environmentally friendly. Costs is particularly a factor in D.C. due to the high cost of living and the low pay of public servants, especially those of us on the Hill.

Unfortunately, D.C. has a documented history of taxicabs refusing to pick up African-Americans. Being an African-American woman, I have difficulty catching a cab in front of my office on Capitol Hill. It is upsetting to stand in front of the U.S. Capitol, in a suit, after a long day of public service and see cab after cab pass you by. With Uber, I call a car and it comes. I don't have to worry about the embarrassment and frustration of not being able to catch a cab because I am black.

I ask that you reconsider the language in the Uber Amendment. I can tell you that MANY Hill staffers are loyal Uber users, especially staffers of color, and we would hate to not have Uber available to us.

Bridgette DeHart  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Tel: (202) [REDACTED]  
Fax: (202) [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Nicholas Duvall](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:22:47 PM

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Dear Council members,

I write to you in protest of the minimum fare language in the proposed Uber Amendment. Price floors through regulation directly impacts consumers and artificially drives up the cost for those that participate in the taxi and car service market. The price floor is an obvious attempt to limit competition to protect the special interests of the current taxi driver's union and performs no benefit for the constituents this council was elected to serve. A vote in favor of this regulation would be a vote for taking money out of consumers pockets to place directly in the hands of the taxi union.

At the very minimum, I urge the council to study the distributive economic effects of such a policy and whether a price floor would discriminate against low-income citizens. The City Council should not have a role in promulgating any public policy that protects and supports anti-competitive Monopoly power at the expense of the people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these opinions.

Kind Regards,

Nick Duvall

- [REDACTED] Washington, DC 20006

**From:** [Sara Deneweth](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:17:38 PM

---

How are you voting on the Uber amendment? Strike Down the Minimum Fare Language! I live in DC and I vote.

Sincerely,  
Sara Deneweth



**From:** [Karen Doyne](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:15:52 PM

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As a 30-year resident of the District, I am asking that you strike the "minimum fare" language from the Uber amendment being voted on tomorrow by the City Council.

I do not own a car and instead rely on public transportation, taxis and car services such as Uber -- which has been a welcome addition to the city. On a Saturday evening, for example, I may be lucky to get Diamond Cab to even answer the phone, and have had to wait 1-2 HOURS for a taxi; having an alternative like Uber has been terrific.

Uber is more expensive than a taxi, and even its planned low-cost service will continue to be more expensive; this is acceptable to those of us who would like choice in our transportation options. The amendment language is clearly intended to prevent Uber from lowering its rates at all -- and indeed, intended to keep it from operating in DC. That's anti-competitive and not in the interests of the citizens of DC.

Please oppose this language and vote to keep Uber -- and consumer choice -- in the District.

Regards,  
Karen Doyne

*Karen L. Doyne*

*Washington, DC 20009*  
*mobile - [REDACTED]*

**From:** [Steven A. Carpenter](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:10:55 PM

---

Passing a last-minute amendment that is not in the best interests of citizens and which continues to provide protections to an industry that refuses to innovate, is not what this country is about. I urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,

Steven A. Carpenter  
Endorse, Founder and CEO  
[www.endorse.com](http://www.endorse.com)

**From:** [Kevin Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:09:31 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

I write to ask you to please consider rejecting the Uber amendment that is apparently being considered as early as tomorrow.

As a District resident, and frequent taxi rider, I enjoy the option of riding with Uber. They offer unique services that cannot be duplicated by DC cabs.

I believe it is possible for both services to thrive.

Thank you.

Kevin Kelley

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20005

**From:** [Joe Newcomb](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Maggie Riordan](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:03:59 PM

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Dear Councilmembers,

As a Ward 5 resident and Ubercab user, it is important to me to remove the minimum fare language from the uber amendment.

Here in Woodridge, it ranges from difficult to impossible to get a standard taxi cab to pick me up at a location near my house. On many occasions, I have called a dispatcher and been told that no cab can come to this part of the city. On other occasions, they have promised me a cab in an hour, and no cab has ever shown up. I don't own a car and I live a mile from the metro stop. There are occasions when a reliable alternative means of transportation is very important for my quality of life.

Since Uber came out here in DC, it has provided a reliable alternative to the unresponsive cab dispatchers, though the cost makes me hesitant to use it as often as I might in an ideal world. Please allow Uber and other car services to compete on a level playing field with the traditional cab services.

There are a lot of things that are more expensive or less convenient than they should be in Ward 5; please do the right thing and make sure that getting a cab at my house isn't one of them.

Thanks a bunch.

Joe Newcomb

**From:** [Alexandra Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:03:38 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown,

I know tomorrow you will be voting on the uber ammendment tomorrow and I write to strongly suggest you vote to strike down the minimum fare language. I think the UBER service is fabulous, creative and a model for what should be happening in DC - creative solutions to outdated business models. The DC taxi industry has been protected for too long and has had too much influence over local politicians -- I hope you stand against together against them.

Thanks,  
Alexandra Fisher

**From:** [Ben Miller](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:02:48 PM

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Why do you continually side with the taxi companies? Either you are corrupt, or you oppose DC citizens benefitting from a free market. I will watch your vote very carefully. Do what is in the best interest of DC residents, not your wallet. If you corruptly vote in favor of the taxi companies, I will vote against you next election and bring everyone I know with me.

This is a perfect example of why DC politics is a complete disgrace and an embarrassment to us all.

The entire city council should be ashamed. And I am for you.

Turn the tide. Do the right thing... for once.

--

Ben Miller

**From:** [Brittany Curley](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:02:39 PM

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Hello DC Council Members!

I am writing today in opposition to the proposed Uber Amendment, which would prevent Uber from lowering their prices (if you may recall are on average about 5x higher than the standard DC rate). I am currently a participant in Uber and thoroughly enjoy the service for the following reasons (I am not in love with the price but I suck it up)

- Safe: oh yeah, that's right their cab fleet doesn't remind me of a mobile death trap with rattling parts, missing door panels, busted doors; more importantly their cabbies are on their GD cell phones all the time and are actually paying attention to the road
- Reliable: They will take you wherever you request to go!
- Nicer to bikers: I cannot tell you how many DC cab drivers cut me off or have hit me and blame me for riding in the bike lane (could we try enforcing an aggressive driving law?)
- Drivers are not pervs or jerks!: I believe this is self explanatory, but let me expand from a 5 ft. tall females' perspective. I cannot tell you how many times i have been made to feel physically/sexually uncomfortable in a cab trying to get home late at night. The reason I take a cab home is to be safe, right?
- Don't have to worry about your driver not actually being a driver, meaning the drivers out there who allow friends to borrow cabs to make a little extra cash
- Overall polite people: DC cabbies may take the cake for biggest jerks and hell, I moved here from NYC!

In a nutshell, I am getting pretty fed up with the DC Government. I'm pretty complacent about comical corruption (yes, you Marion Barry, how you keep getting reelected is beyond me) , fecklesness, and drug/hooker stings. But the recent rash of embezzlements and outright silly laws that jack up cost of living for residents is mind-blowingly assinine!!

So what shall we say, give the DC tax payers a break and let Uber lower rates? I know you've got it in you!

Sincerely,

Britt Curley

**From:** [Ehsan Aleaziz](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:49 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

As a Ward 6 resident, I am writing to inquire how you plan to vote on the amendment to mandate higher prices in the private transportation market. I frequently use Uber for work to transport clients around D.C. and I don't understand why the Council would vote to impose higher costs on my business. It seems to me that the purpose of this amendment is to privilege one private entity (D.C. taxi cab operators) over another (Uber). Government intervention to cap prices would have a clear public benefit, but I am confused as to how a measure that discourages competitive pricing would help the consumer at all. In the private sector, companies are prohibited under federal law from colluding to fix prices at the expense of the consumer; can you explain how this amendment does not violate at least the spirit of those laws?

If you plan to vote for this amendment, I would appreciate a response from you or your staff addressing my questions.

Thank you for your service.

Best,

Ehsan Aleaziz  
5th St. NE



**From:** [William J. Cook](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 6:01:48 PM

---

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

**William J. Cook**  
**Washington, DC**

**From:** [fred somers](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:57:04 PM

---

Council member Wells,

I am writing to urge you to vote to strike the minimum fare language from the so-called Uber Amendment when the issue comes before the Council. As a resident of Ward 6 and a frequent Uber customer I believe strongly that the competition provided by Uber will ultimately improve transportation options in the city. Please let me know your position on this issue. Thank you.

Fred Somers

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20002  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Justin Rzepka](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:53:31 PM

---

Tommy,

Please vote for competition and do away with any language that would prevent Uber from operating a competitive service to the decrepit and embarrassing service we call cabs in DC. The free market is a good thing and competition should be allowed to flourish.

Thanks for your consideration.

Justin

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**Subject:** Urgent! - DC City Council is voting tomorrow to prevent Uber from lowering rates  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, 9 Jul 2012 20:47:32 +0000

## Un-Independence

On Independence Day, Uber announced a roll out of a [lower cost service](#) that we call UberX. A less expensive Uber option on an all-hybrid fleet. We're pretty excited about it and think it's a great idea for cities across the country. What some of you probably noticed is that there was no roll out of this service in the District. That is because, only days earlier, the DC City Council informed us that they intended to pass an amendment to the taxi modernization bill that would **make it illegal for Uber to lower its prices** or to offer a low cost service in any form. The Council's intention is to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare**. Consequently they are handicapping a reliable, high quality transportation alternative so that Uber cannot offer a high quality service at the best possible price. It was hard for us to believe that an elected body would choose to keep prices of a transportation service artificially high - but the goal is essentially to protect a [taxi industry](#) that has significant [experience](#) in influencing local politicians. They want to make sure there is no viable alternative to a taxi in Washington DC, and so on Tuesday (tomorrow!), the DC City Council is going to formalize that principle into law.

For obvious reasons, Uber is seriously concerned about punitive government intervention in a well functioning marketplace. Because of this we felt it was our responsibility to let our riders know about the issues at hand.

## Take Action

### **THE COUNCIL VOTES ON THE UBER AMENDMENT TOMORROW!**

If each of us writes or calls our DC Council people, we could make an impact on this law. What are we asking for?

**Strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#).**

Here are the City Council members' contact info. Call/write as many of them as possible!

- **Phil Mendelson** (Chairman), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- **Mary Cheh**, Ward 3, (Chairperson of Committee on the Environment, Public Works and Transportation), (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@marycheh](#)
- **Michael Brown**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@cmmichaelabrown](#)
- **Jim Graham**, Ward 1, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jimgrahamward1](#)
- **Jack Evans**, Ward 2, (202) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [@jackevansward2](#)

- **Muriel Bowser**, Ward 4, (202) [REDACTED] [@murielbowser](#)
  - **Kenyan McDuffie**, Ward 5, (202) [REDACTED] [@kenyanmcduffie](#)
  - **Tommy Wells**, Ward 6, (202) [REDACTED] [@tommywells](#)
  - **Yvette Alexander**, Ward 7, (202) [REDACTED] [@cmyma](#)
  - **Marion Barry**, Ward 8, (202) [REDACTED] [@marionbarryjr](#)
- 
- **David Catania**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@cataniapress](#)
  - **Vincent Orange**, at-large, (202) [REDACTED] [@vincentorangedc](#)

Keep the #UberDCLove alive. See full blog post [here](#).

Sincerely,

Travis Kalanick, Uber Co-Founder and CEO

*To join the #UberDCLove activism team, [click here](#).*



---

Uber Technologies, Inc.  
182 Howard Street, #8  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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 [@Uber\\_DC](#)

**From:** [Justin Daly](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary Frances Daly](#)  
**Subject:** UBER amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:47:05 PM


---

tommy, as a capitol hill homeowner (603 14th street ne) and dc business owner, **I urge you to strike the minimum fare language in the UBER amendment**. I find this protectionism outrageous — are you really for HIGHER transportation costs??

A little competition would help DC taxicab drivers, don't you think?

in any event, I want to know how you will vote tomorrow.

--

Justin Daly  
Daly Consulting Group, LLC  
950 F Street, NW  
Suite 525  
Washington, DC 20004  


**From:** [Thomas Burr](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:46:29 PM

---

Councilman Catania,

I would like to urge you to vote against the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment in tomorrow's council meeting. I live in a part of Capitol Hill where its almost impossible to get reliable cab service. I've even missed a flight because a scheduled cab didn't show up and I couldn't find another one anywhere near my home.

Uber is a great service for those of us who want a car service that is reliable and I think our city should promote the idea of hybrid car services and in the absence of better taxi services, embrace a service like Uber.

Best,

-- Thomas Burr  
1200 Block of Duncan PI NE

**From:** [Thomas Burr](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:45:30 PM

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Councilman Wells,

I would like to urge you to vote against the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment in tomorrow's council meeting. I live in a part of Capitol Hill where its almost impossible to get reliable cab service. I've even missed a flight because a scheduled cab didn't show up and I couldn't find another one anywhere near my home.

Uber is a great service for those of us who want a car service that is reliable and I think our city should promote the idea of hybrid car services and in the absence of better taxi services, embrace a service like Uber.

Best,

-- Thomas Burr  
1200 Block of Duncan PI NE

**From:** [mensch 53](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:43:59 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

As a fellow resident of Ward 6, I am sure you can relate to the difficulty we regularly have both obtaining taxi service as well as convincing drivers to take us home from other parts of the city. Uber has quickly become an effective alternative to our outdated, ineffective taxi service. Far from discouraging Uber from adding a lower-cost program, we should encourage competition to improve DC's taxis. As such, I would encourage you vote to remove the minimum fare language from the taxi modernization bill under consideration.

Thank you!

Matt Thornton





**From:** [Neil Glick](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:42:01 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown,

First, my apologies for not thank you sooner for the tickets to the Red Hot Chili Peppers! What a great show! My birthday was two days later and then I was on the road for quite a bit!

In my neighborhood of Hill East, it is near impossible to get a taxi to come pick me up or drop me off. It has kept me from going out at night to meet friends in other parts of town. It is as if Capitol Hill is an island that I am stranded on for a Friday or Saturday night.

Then came along Uber. Uber provides me a level of service I have never experienced in a DC taxicab. They come to any neighborhood in the city and take me to any neighborhood in the city. This is the complete opposite of 99% of DC Taxicabs.

The DC Taxis have a monopoly in this city. The prices are fixed and raised, and there is almost no voice of the consumer in the process. The Taxi cabs have brought a dark stain on our city, as they have led to investigations and arrests by Federal authorities!

I have filed complaints against taxicabs for homophobic comments directed towards my Domestic Partner and I during rides; the Taxicab Commission did NOTHING and did not even acknowledge my complaint being filed (I sent letters and then followed up by email – NO RESPONSE).

When I have guests at my home for a party or dinner, we call for taxis, and my guests cannot get home. They are stranded here and often I have to drive them home. I get these same complaints from many of the constituents I have served as an ANC Commissioner for the past 12 years.

DC needs more cars for hire on the road to assist in building up our nightlife (and which members of the Council have worked hard to extend bar hours).

Please, strike down the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment" specifically provision 8C in the Uber Amendment.

We need quality competition and then maybe our Taxi Cabs will improve their level of service.

--

Neil Glick  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
605 Pennsylvania Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003

 office  
mobile

[www.neilglick.com](http://www.neilglick.com)

Investing is a team sport; make me part of your team



**From:** [Emily Clack](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:38:00 PM

---

Dear David Catania,

Please do not screw over people who use public transportation on a daily basis here in the city by voting against Uber tomorrow. Please give residents in the District the opportunity to get lower rates + great service, both of which D.C. cabs fail to deliver.

Thanks,  
Emily Clack  
D.C. Resident

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Luis Betanzo](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:37:36 PM

---

Dear Councilman Wells,

As a DC Ward 6 resident I am asking you to strike down the Uber Amendment. The district should be an example to the rest of the nation and we should allow capitalism and not legislation set transportation prices. Not only is this the right thing to do for the transportation market, it will also help local businesses if people are able to get around at a lower cost. In hard economic times I would hope our local representatives can look towards the future and find innovative ways to help their community and support local businesses.

Kind regards,

Luis Betanzo

**From:** [Terry Carter](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:37:24 PM

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I am urging each one of you to vote down the minimum fare language tomorrow in the Uber amendment. I and countless other D.C. residents are sick and tired of corruption in this city. Haven't you had enough? Really, haven't you? Vincent Gray is on his way out with the news today, and will take the same walk of shame that other city leaders have recently. Yet, the taxi industry is well known for its corrupt influence on city politics. I am also sick of substandard taxi service, with indifferent and sometimes incompetent drivers who can't be counted on to arrive on time for a pick up, make you ask them to roll up the windows and turn on the A/C, drive old and dirty cars, talk on the phone while driving, and can't (or won't) take the most efficient routes.

With Uber, I and many others can ***finally*** get picked up in a nice and clean car, with a courteous driver and a system that keeps you fully informed. Then, you get to give feedback on the driver. Feedback; imagine that if a similar system was in place with District taxi drivers. You wouldn't even want to know.

Please vote against this and quit protecting an incompetent and inefficient taxi system that disgraces our city. Give us choice, and give this embarrassing taxi system some competition. It just might make it improve.

Your votes tomorrow will have a permanent effect on my support of any of any of you for any future office you seek. I have scores of friends who also use Uber, and you can count on the same thing.

Do the right thing. Vote against this anti-competitive language in the amendment. Please do your part to put some integrity back into our disgraced city. Maybe one day we'll again have hope of representation in Congress. But the events of this year have killed that possibility for a long time.

I would appreciate hearing back from each one of you in advance as to what your vote will be.

Terry Carter  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Emily Clack](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:36:18 PM

---

Dear Tommy Wells,

Please do not screw over people who use public transportation on a daily basis here in the city by voting against Uber tomorrow. Please give residents in the District the opportunity to get lower rates + great service, both of which D.C. cabs fail to deliver.

Thanks,  
Emily Clack  
D.C. Resident

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jean Marie Neal](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** UBER AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:31:19 PM

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As a 30 year resident of the District, I urge you in tomorrow's Council meeting to vote FOR UBER. Their proposal for a new type of service, and one that would use hybrid vehicles, is much needed.

It should not be the role of our local government to hinder competition or innovation. We as a City, both the Council and

the Citizens, need to encourage innovation and competition. Washington D.C. is no longer a little hamlet for the

local governing officials to treat as such. An amendment to stop UBER sends an anti-business message that this

City can ill afford to send. Forget your desire to protect one industry, this amendment will be heard far and wide

that Washington D.C. is not open to new ideas, that its still the same old, same old. If UBER needs to be brought

under reasonable regulation, fine. But this amendment is not that at all.

Especially now with a majority of the Council, as well as the Mayor, under federal investigation, you should be

showing more maturity and vision. What kind of message does it send that you would unfairly protect the very

industry that tried to bribe Mr. Graham who failed to report it, played a role in Mr. Gray's election, and has been the

subject of numerous scandals over the years. The selling of licenses, horribly dirty cabs, no air conditioning in hot

weather, etc. etc. Every vote you cast should be done with the highest of motives, with the hope that we can

one day show that this is an honest and well-functioning City, with elected leaders who have vision for the future.

Jean Marie Neal

Cell Phone 202/[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Washington, D.C. 20002

**From:** [Jonathan Smith](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:31:07 PM

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Dear Councilman Wells,

I am writing to ask you to please strike the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. Like many DC residents, I have been frustrated for years with the state of DC's taxi fleet. The cabs are run down, the drivers often have no idea where they're going, they do not reliably respond to dispatch calls, and on numerous occasions I've had drivers refuse to take me to my desired location. I have used Uber many times and can say unequivocally that they provide an important and useful service for my family. Unlike taxi drivers, they will come to my house within minutes of my request. Unlike taxi drivers, they will deliver me to my house from any location without complaint and without stopping to pick up an extra fare. I am convinced that our taxi fleet will never improve without competition.

My wife and I have lived in Washington for over a decade and are proud to be parents of a DCPS student and hope to send all of our children to public schools.

We will remain committed to DC as long as DC is committed to getting rid of the corruption and reforming broken systems, like the one that oversees our taxi fleet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Smith

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC 20003



**From:** [Lauren Dreyer](#)  
**To:** [Lauren Dreyer \(me\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:29:41 PM

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Dear Council Member:

I am writing as a resident of D.C. (1354 Euclid St, N.W.) to support striking down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment pertaining to Uber, Inc. As a frequent rider of both DC-commissioned taxicabs and Uber's services, I believe that the market in D.C. was missing exactly what Uber provides.

I use Uber Cab most often when working late at night and needing to take a cab, rather than a bus or the metro (which I ride daily), to get safely home. In the past, I have called DC-commissioned cab services and waited on the phone for over 20 minutes and/or waited an additional 30 minutes for a cab to arrive. Often times, the cab never shows up, especially on weekends when cab drivers are busier. Alternatively, I have stood on the corner outside my office building, when it's late and dark outside, and tried to hail a cab, most of which pass right by me as already occupied. This is a safety risk due to my office's neighborhood, which is not lit and barely patrolled at a late hour or on weekends.

When the Uber service became available in DC, they filled a much needed place in the market. Now, when I'm at work past midnight, I can get a safe and affordable ride home with the click of a button. Never have I waited more than 10 minutes and never have I had to stand on the corner in an unsafe area to hail a cab. I walk outside of my building and into the Uber vehicle that is waiting, patiently, for my arrival.

Please don't take that away from the residents of D.C. Try taking an Uber cab home tonight, and you will understand why it's so valuable to our residents.

Best regards,  
Lauren

--

Lauren Dreyer



**From:** [Raymond Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:29:40 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Catania,

I am a DC resident that routinely uses Uber to get to and from work - it is a fantastic service and a great alternative to DC's taxi cabs. I realize that protecting taxi cabs is important to the DC Council and I am not opposed to it. However, I do not think the appropriate way to do so is to effectively preclude another business from flourishing. Uber is a fantastic alternative to DC's cabs. Competition and options are good things. As a constituent I urge you to facilitate Uber's business here in DC. Ultimately, doing so will result in happy residents and, hopefully, improved taxi cabs in the District.

I can be reached at [REDACTED] if you have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing.

Regards,

Ray Ramirez

**From:** [Raymond Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:29:11 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells,

I am a DC resident that routinely uses Uber to get to and from work - it is a fantastic service and a great alternative to DC's taxi cabs. I realize that protecting taxi cabs is important to the DC Council and I am not opposed to it. However, I do not think the appropriate way to do so is to effectively preclude another business from flourishing. Uber is a fantastic alternative to DC's cabs. Competition and options are good things. As a constituent I urge you to facilitate Uber's business here in DC. Ultimately, doing so will result in happy residents and, hopefully, improved taxi cabs in the District.

I can be reached at [REDACTED] if you have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing.

Regards,

Ray Ramirez

**From:** [Laura Snodgrass](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:34 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

I am writing, as a DC resident, and an enthusiastic customer of Uber transportation services, to ask you to please vote against the minimum fare language proposed in the Uber Amendment. Uber has provided an invaluable service to the city and to me - I feel much safer calling for an Uber car directly, knowing who my driver will be, and knowing exactly when it will arrive, particularly late at night or very early in the morning. Their customer service is leaps and bounds better than most traditional cab drivers, and the cars they drive don't have the same issues with broken A/C, lingering smoke and other smells, and poor maintenance that I encounter almost always with the other cabs. I particularly like knowing that my credit card will be directly billed, and I no longer need to ensure that I have enough cash to get home at the end of the night. I am concerned that the Amendment language will effectively force Uber out of the city, and I will once again be left standing on a street corner at night, or in the rain, waiting, HOPING, for a cab to happen along to take me where I need to go. Please do not take away this valuable service.

Regards,  
Laura Snodgrass  
Ward 1

**From:** [Raymond Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:28:08 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Brown,

I am a DC resident that routinely uses Uber to get to and from work - it is a fantastic service and a great alternative to DC's taxi cabs. I realize that protecting taxi cabs is important to the DC Council and I am not opposed to it. However, I do not think the appropriate way to do so is to effectively preclude another business from flourishing. Uber is a fantastic alternative to DC's cabs. Competition and options are good things. As a constituent I urge you to facilitate Uber's business here in DC. Ultimately, doing so will result in happy residents and, hopefully, improved taxi cabs in the District.

I can be reached at [REDACTED] if you have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing.

Regards,

Ray Ramirez

**From:** [William Norman](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:50 PM

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Councilman Catania:

I'm writing to you as a very concerned DC resident.

The advent of a service called Uber here in DC has greatly improved the quality of life for many people who call this city home. They provide an outstanding service at a reasonable price, provide 100% transparency, offer clean and comfortable cars, use credit cards, are concerned for the environment and--perhaps most importantly--solicit and utilize customer feedback as to the driver's performance. They provide a much-welcomed alternative to some of the dilapidated cabs and unfriendly drivers who refuse to modernize their service. Uber provides the service that is found in the rest of this country's major metropolitan areas and civilized western society and for that they risk penalization. Uber is the only alternative to those of us who do not wish to take a clapped-out, uncomfortable, non-climate controlled, non-transparent cab that refuses to take credit cards.

In your vote tomorrow, please do not allow government to unfairly punish Uber by requiring a minimum fare. At a time when the DC Council is facing such scrutiny and perception of malfeasance, do not allow yourself to be seen as taking the side of one powerful business interest over another service provider who cannot compete with political favoritism. The city will take notice.

I implore you: vote fair. Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
Will Norman

**From:** [Andy Kroll](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:11 PM

---

Michael,


My name's Andy Kroll, and I'm a citizen here in the District. I've never emailed a member of the DC Council before, but I'm emailing now to ask you to reconsider, if not strike, the minimum fare language in the "Uber amendment" in the pending taxi modernization bill.

I've used traditional DC cabs for several years, and have to say it was a welcome relief when Uber brought its service to DC. Uber is more convenient, more hospitable to its customers, and frankly a better transportation option in all respects. It's outrageous how DC cabs treat their customers, the outdated cars they drive, and the fact that they don't even accept credit cards.

Competition is good for business, and the DC transportation industry is no different. I understand that it's one thing for a business to move into DC and operate on its own rules. The taxi modernization bills appears to apply some degree of regulation to so-called "sedan class vehicles." Unless I'm mistaken, penalizing Uber with this minimum fare language appears unfair and anti-competitive.

I hope you and the council will settle on a common-sense solution here that doesn't unfairly penalize Uber, one that allows Uber and traditional DC cabs to co-exist and compete on equal ground. Many thanks --

Best,  
Andy Kroll



**From:** [Emily Clack](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:27:07 PM

---

Dear Michael Brown,

Please do not screw over people who use public transportation on a daily basis here in the city by voting against Uber tomorrow. Please give residents in the District the opportunity to get lower rates + great service, both of which D.C. cabs fail to deliver and you know it.

Give us a break.

Thanks,  
Emily Clack  
D.C. Resident

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [David Freerksen](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:38 PM


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Councilman Brown,

I'm writing to you as one of your constituents regarding the Council's vote on amending DC taxicab laws to require that companies such as Uber to charge as a minimum five times the minimum charged by taxicabs. This policy does nothing for the interest of District residents. I've lived in the District for five years and rarely have a positive experience with taxicab drives. There have been multiple occasions where I have encountered rude and unprofessional drivers and some where drivers act in a way that is categorically illegal under District law. Allowing for competition is something that will benefit all residents. Voting for this amendment is certainly not the kind of action that would show a desire to act in the best interest of your constituents. I hope you vote no on this unfair and anticompetitive amendment tomorrow.

Sincerely,

David Freerksen

  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Andy Kroll](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:26:17 PM

---

Michael,


My name's Andy Kroll, and I'm a citizen here in the District. I'm emailing to ask you to reconsider, if not strike, the minimum fare language in the "Uber amendment" in the pending taxi modernization bill.

I've used traditional DC cabs for several years, and have to say it was a welcome relief when Uber brought its service to DC. Uber is more convenient, more hospitable to its customers, and frankly a better transportation option in all respects. It's outrageous how DC cabs treat their customers, the outdated cars they drive, and the fact that they don't even accept credit cards.

Competition is good for business, and the DC transportation industry is no different. I understand that it's one thing for a business to move into DC and operate on its own rules. The taxi modernization bills appears to apply some degree of regulation to so-called "sedan class vehicles." Unless I'm mistaken, penalizing Uber with this minimum fare language appears unfair and anti-competitive.

I hope you and the council will settle on a common-sense solution here that doesn't unfairly penalize Uber, one that allows Uber and traditional DC cabs to co-exist and compete on equal ground. Many thanks --

Best,  
Andy Kroll



**From:** [William Norman](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:25:20 PM

---

Councilman Wells:

I'm writing to you as a very concerned DC resident.

The advent of a service called Uber here in DC has greatly improved the quality of life for many people who call this city home. They provide an outstanding service at a reasonable price, provide 100% transparency, offer clean and comfortable cars, use credit cards, are concerned for the environment and--perhaps most importantly--solicit and utilize customer feedback as to the driver's performance. They provide a much-welcomed alternative to some of the delapidated cabs and unfriendly drivers who refuse to modernize their service. Uber provides the service that is found in the rest of this country's major metropolitan areas and civilized western society and for that they risk penalization. Uber is the only alternative to those of us who do not wish to take a clapped-out, uncomfortable, non-climate controlled, non-transparent cab that refuses to take credit cards.

In your vote tomorrow, please do not allow government to unfairly punish Uber by requiring a minimum fare. At a time when the DC Council is facing such scrutiny and perception of malfeasance, do not allow yourself to be seen as taking the side of one powerful business interest over another service provider who cannot compete with political favoritism. The city will take notice.

I implore you: vote fair. Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
Will Norman

**From:** [Meghan McCaffrey](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:24:43 PM

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Please do not pass the Uber Amendment tomorrow, which would otherwise require a minimum fare for Uber rides. Uber is a much-needed alternative to the taxi service in DC, which is unreliable, over-priced, and unprofessional. Uber has a right to operate its superior car service at competitive rates -- please do not take that right away.

Thanks,  
Meghan McCaffrey  
DC Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Hank Haldeman](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:24:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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I am a frequent visitor to Washington DC. I have found the Uber service to be a huge enhancement to my ability to navigate and enjoy DC while making my work there far more efficient. If there is a taxi available, I will use it. However, there frequently is not a cab immediately available. The ability to engage a sedan at a reasonable rate is an outstanding alternative when a cab is not there to be hailed.

The Uber system is an excellent complement to the other transportation options available in DC. It is incomprehensible to my why the city would seek some form of protectionist policy, forcing the vendor to charge more than what is required for reasonable business practice. Uber is brilliant, and good for DC. Please don't do the residents and visitors of DC the disservice of imposing an artificial disincentive to Uber by forcing a minimum charge.

Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Respectfully,

Harry H Haldeman  
1350 Lomay Place  
Pasadena, CA 91103

Hank Haldeman  
**The Sullivan Group**

(O)

(M)

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**From:** [Charlene Rochwite](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:47 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

I'm writing because I hope you will consider voting against the minimum fair language in the Uber Amendment.

I live at 2908 O St NW and it's not possible to hail a taxi from my home. While there are busier streets nearby, I don't always feel safe standing on P St for 10 minutes while trying to hail a taxi. Georgetown may seem safe, but it has its share of muggings. I've tried calling taxis, but no service I've tried is reliable. Sometimes it takes 30 minutes for a taxi to arrive, and just as often, no taxi arrives at all. This makes this option impractical. If taxis were doing their job well, there would be no need for Uber, but until then, please don't price them out of the market. When I leave my house late at night, Uber is a lifesaver. If Uber can provide a great service at a reasonable rate, I think it's unconscionable for the Council to rule otherwise. Let the market set the price for this service, or the price will be so high that I will have to go back to standing on P St, waiting in the rain or heat for a taxi to happen by. Please put the best interests of DC residents over the interests of taxi drivers.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Charlene Rochwite



**From:** [Charlene Rochwite](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:44 PM

---

Mr Brown,

I'm writing because I hope you will consider voting against the minimum fair language in the Uber Amendment.

I live at 2908 O St NW and t's not possible to hail a taxi from my home. While there are busier streets nearby, I don't always feel safe standing on P St for 10 minutes while trying to hail a taxi. Georgetown may seem safe, but it has it's share of muggings. I've tried calling taxis, but no service I've tried is reliable. Sometimes it takes 30 minutes for a taxi to arrive, and just as often, no taxi arrives at all. This makes this option impractical. If taxis were doing their job well, there would be no need for Uber, but until then, please don't price them out of the market. When I leave my house late at night, Uber is a lifesaver. If Uber can provide a great service at a reasonable rate, I think it's unconscionable for the Council to rule otherwise. Let the market set the price for this service, or the price will be so high that I will have to go back to standing on P St, waiting in the rain or heat for a taxi to happen by. Please put the best interests of DC residents over the interests of taxi drivers.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Charlene Rochwite



**From:** [Hank Haldeman](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)


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I am a frequent visitor to Washington DC. I have found the Uber service to be a huge enhancement to my ability to navigate and enjoy DC while making my work there far more efficient. If there is a taxi available, I will use it. However, there frequently is not a cab immediately available. The ability to engage a sedan at a reasonable rate is an outstanding alternative when a cab is not there to be hailed.

The Uber system is an excellent complement to the other transportation options available in DC. It is incomprehensible to my why the city would seek some form of protectionist policy, forcing the vendor to charge more than what is required for reasonable business practice. Uber is brilliant, and good for DC. Please don't do the residents and visitors of DC the disservice of imposing an artificial disincentive to Uber by forcing a minimum charge.

Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Respectfully,

Harry H Haldeman  
1350 Lomay Place  
Pasadena, CA 91103  


Hank Haldeman  
**The Sullivan Group**

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**From:** [Belknap, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:14 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to ask you to **strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the [Uber Amendment](#)** at tomorrow's meeting. As a young DC professional I look to Uber to provide a safe and reliable service at times when the alternative (taxicabs) has proven less so. I ask you to strike down the minimum fare language not only for myself, but for all of my peers that reside in the city and whose wallets could use a break during these tough times.

I appreciate any and all consideration you will give to this request.

All the best,  
Sarah

**Sarah M. Belknap**

**From:** [William Norman](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:23:02 PM

---

Councilmember Brown:

I'm writing to you as a very concerned DC resident.

The advent of a service called Uber here in DC has greatly improved the quality of life for many people who call this city home. They provide an outstanding service at a reasonable price, provide 100% transparency, offer clean and comfortable cars, use credit cards, are concerned for the environment and--perhaps most importantly--solicit and utilize customer feedback as to the driver's performance. They provide a much-welcomed alternative to some of the delapidated cabs and unfriendly drivers who refuse to modernize their service. Uber provides the service that is found in the rest of this country's major metropolitan areas and civilized western society and for that they risk penalization. Uber is the only alternative to those of us who do not wish to take a clapped-out, uncomfortable, non-climate controlled, non-transparent cab that refuses to take credit cards.

In your vote tomorrow, please do not allow government to unfairly punish Uber by requiring a minimum fare. At a time when the DC Council is facing such scrutiny and perception of malfeasance, do not allow yourself to be seen as taking the side of one powerful business interest over another service provider who cannot compete with political favoritism. The city will take notice.

I implore you: vote fair. Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
Will Norman

**From:** [Rishi Moorthy](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:26 PM

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DC Council:

Hello. I am writing as a long-time DC resident to implore you to please strike down the Uber ammendment. I cannot stress to you how great this service has been to the city. I have numerous female friends who know can call a ride safely at whatever time they need to without waiting on the dark corners of the city trying to flag a taxi driver down who basically decides whether to stop or not. I cannot tell you how many occasions I have personally been passed by taxi cabs either in favor of larger groups so they can make more money or because of the color of my skin (they have actually said to me they make judgment calls late at night for "safety" concerns). To deny female and male residents the SAFETY and efficiency of this service is ridiculous. I think that DC cabs need some sort of competition in order to improve their effficiency and service. It is nearly impossible to call a cab to my apartment for a female friend or to take me to the airport in a timely manner. As a professional in this city, I can tell you I am not the only person who feels this way. If DC cabs can have this much control over a city council with such an ABSURD ammendment I may have no choice but to actually get involved in the political process by not voting for any of you next time. It should tell you something that every other city has allowed this. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rishi K. Moorthy, MD  
Anesthesiologist  
Washington Hospital Center

**From:** [Brian McNamee](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:22:06 PM

---

Dear Council-member Catania:

I just learned about the Uber amendment being proposed in Taxi Modernization Bill. While I support much of the effort being put forth in the bill, please strike out this amendment. The service Uber provides is a great alternative to typical taxi service. They are able to offer services such as accurate and reliable pick up, that taxi services in the city simply aren't able to deliver. I've come to rely on this service for getting around in the city.

I understand the amendment will make the minimum fee 5 times higher than the taxi drop fee! This will limit my ability to use the service, and truly inconvenience my lifestyle. In addition, it will prevent competition that will inevitably bring improvement to all DC transportation services. In addition, I do not feel this is a regulatory measure, or one that improves the city's greater good, but rather one to halt free-market competition. If you truly support improving service, keep this amendment out!

Thanks for your consideration,

Brian McNamee  
Ward 5, DC Resident

**From:** [Hank Haldeman](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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I am a frequent visitor to Washington DC. I have found the Uber service to be a huge enhancement to my ability to navigate and enjoy DC while making my work there far more efficient. If there is a taxi available, I will use it. However, there frequently is not a cab immediately available. The ability to engage a sedan at a reasonable rate is an outstanding alternative when a cab is not there to be hailed.

The Uber system is an excellent complement to the other transportation options available in DC. It is incomprehensible to my why the city would seek some form of protectionist policy, forcing the vendor to charge more than what is required for reasonable business practice. Uber is brilliant, and good for DC. Please don't do the residents and visitors of DC the disservice of imposing an artificial disincentive to Uber by forcing a minimum charge.

Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber amendment.

Respectfully,

Harry H Haldeman  
1350 Lomay Place  
Pasadena, CA 91103

Hank Haldeman  
**The Sullivan Group**

(O)

(M)

Ins. License 0582676



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**From:** [Rob Wilder \[ThinkFoodGroup\]](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Rob Wilder \[ThinkFoodGroup\]](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:29 PM

---

Dear Tommy: My wife Robin and I are loving the service of Uber here in DC and other cities as well. Uber has been a huge “modern” asset to us, our partners, and our customers in making an elegant night out on the town in DC easier, more fun, and affordable. Uber is good for business, helps fight drunk driving, and relieves congestion. We are very excited to learn of their new lower cost Hybrid service-- another way DC can support business and tourism and increase the quality of our transportation options. Uber makes DC cooler!

I hope you and your fellow Council members will vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment!!

Thanks for listening.

Cheers

Rob

Rob Wilder  
Partner/CEO

**JOSÉ ANDRÉS' THINKFOODGROUP**

425 8th Street, NW #1131  
Washington, DC 20004

M [REDACTED]

**JALEO ZAYTINYA THE BAZAAR BY JOSÉ ANDRÉS TRES  
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**From:** [Andrew Davis](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:24 PM

---

Mr. Cantania,

Please consider working to help strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. As a Ward 2 resident that works in Chinatown and lives in Dupont Circle, Uber is a convenient and safe alternative to taxis in the city when working late hours or traveling from busy destinations where taxi's aren't readily available. While I normally trust our City Council to make the correct decisions for their constituents, letting this vote pass would demonstrate a disturbing amount of Government intervention in what is currently a well-functioning market place. I understand that the Taxi-cab lobby here in the city is a powerful one and I appreciate their desire to maintain their competitive advantage but passing this amendment would harm the citizens who appreciate a somewhat low cost alternative...especially when most of use the service only when a traditional cab is difficult to locate.

Regards,

Andy

**Andrew Davis**  
**Director of Training**  
**BoardSource**  
750 9th Street NW, Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20001  
phone: [REDACTED]  
[www.BoardSource.org](http://www.BoardSource.org)

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**From:** [Brian McNamee](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:21:08 PM

---

Dear Council-member Brown,

I just learned about the Uber amendment being proposed in Taxi Modernization Bill. While I support much of the effort being put forth in the bill, please strike out this amendment. The service Uber provides is a great alternative to typical taxi service. They are able to offer services such as accurate and reliable pick up, that taxi services in the city simply aren't able to deliver. I've come to rely on this service for getting around in the city.

I understand the amendment will make the minimum fee 5 times higher than the taxi drop fee! This will limit my ability to use the service, and truly inconvenience my lifestyle. In addition, it will prevent competition that will inevitably bring improvement to all DC transportation services. In addition, I do not feel this is a regulatory measure, or one that improves the city's greater good, but rather one to halt free-market competition. If you truly support improving service, keep this amendment out!

Thanks for your consideration,

Brian McNamee  
Ward 5, DC Resident



**From:** [Sharon McEvoy](#)  
**To:** [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:20:09 PM

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Dear Council Members,

It has come to my attention that you all are trying to make it illegal for Uber to offer affordable transportation in a safe, clean vehicle. I live in Bethesda and used to not want to travel downtown to DC because of the hardship and often times walk to the MD border to hail a cab. However, since Uber has come into existence, I now venture downtown more often and give money to establishments helping your people and economy.

DC taxi cab drivers have refused and continue to refuse to take me to my apartment in Bethesda. What is someone to do? One incident, a DC police officer did not believe me when I said that no DC taxi cab would take us home on one of the coldest nights this past winter. His disbelief quickly turned into sheer shock and then anger because he stood there with us for 20 minutes in the freezing snow trying to hail a cab for us and them blatantly refuse to take us. And when he finally forced one to take us, the driver was not to pleased to drive us and gave us attitude. Why would I want to be in a cab with a driver like that?! Uber drivers are reliable, never refuse to take me, and they are pleasant as can be.

I think you all are making a mistake in passing this amendment without taking other important points into consideration. People love Uber, especially people who live outside the city. People love to take Uber into and out of the city. More people go into the city because of it. I will seriously think twice about venturing into DC if this is passed. I do not support taxi drivers who discriminate on where you live!

Either you do something about your taxi drivers (which there is no way of enforcing considering it is illegal for them to refuse a fare and yet they did it to a DC police officer) or you do not pass the amendment. Uber should have the right to set their own prices. You do not.


Sincerely,

Sharon H. McEvoy  
Director, Marketing  
Bethesda, MD

**From:** [Dawn Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:19:56 PM

---

Please strike down the minimum fare language from the uber amendment. Uber is a great alternative that this city loves.

Dawn Wilson  
Controller  
CoStar Group  
1331 L St NW  
Washington, DC 20005  


**From:** [Ryan Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:30 PM

---

As a ward 6 voter, I find the fare minimum in the Uber amendment absolutely unbelievable and any vote to set a fare minimum is nothing more than political pandering to the corrupt DC taxi lobby. The city council's ongoing attempts to fight any new viable businesses – food trucks, uber, etc to protect crony interests is nauseating at the least... and given the number of council members looking at jail cells, criminal in many cases.

Tommy, please don't pander to incumbent forces at the expense of the majority of residents. From food trucks, to uber, to even how the Hine project has devolved into protecting Stanton's interests above all else, we need a council member that fights for all of us in the community and the amenities we want... someone not beholden to yesterday's fundraisers.

**Ryan Thomas**

7xx 13<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
20003


**From:** [Bryan DiFrancesco](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:18:18 PM

---

Mr. Evans, Mr. Mendelson, Ms. Cheh, and Mr. Brown.,

I have been a resident of Ward 2 since 2004, and am a relatively frequent user of both DC taxis and the Uber car service. I am writing to request that you strike the minimum fare language from the "Uber Amendment" to the taxi modernization bill. I do not believe that it makes sense to restrict Uber (or other sedan services) from setting fares below an arbitrary amount, such as a multiple of the taxicab minimum fare. It seems that this amendment is intended to artificially keep Uber's fares non-competitively high for the purpose of protecting the taxicab industry. I do not believe this is sound policy for the District and I believe it would have a negative effect on the price and quality of transportation options for years to come. I urge you not to vote for an amendment that would institute minimum fares for Uber.

Thank you,  
Bryan DiFrancesco

  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Abraham, Georgia](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:17:26 PM

---

Mr Catania,

I am writing as a DC resident and an employee of a District company in support of Uber and I ask that you vote to strike the minimum fare language of the Uber amendment. I have used Uber many times, and find them to be greatly superior to DC taxis. I am aware that the Council is attempting to upgrade the DC taxi system, but I expect the taxi industry and their big bucks will sue to postpone this from happening and will prevent a taxi overhaul from taking place any time soon.

I am tired of dirty cabs; cabs not using air-conditioning because "it just broke"; drivers who don't have a clue where they're going; their inability to change a \$20 bill; and the general discourteousness of many.

Punishing a private company that is successful in other cities because they are efficient and cost-effective sends a message to other private corporations that punitive government intervention is in the wings. I cannot believe that the Council would vote to keep fares artificially high and choose to punish the citizens of Washington and the many tourists who visit in order to keep a third-world taxi system operating without competition.

Georgia abraham

**Georgia Abraham**  
**Telesis Corporation**  
**1101 30th St NW, 4th Floor**

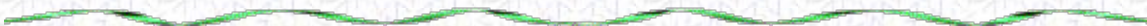
Washington, DC 20007



(direct)

(mobile)

(fax)



**From:** [Curtis k](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:16:33 PM

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Greetings,

Uber recently made me aware of an amendment which affects their pricing model. Uber claims the DC City Council is effectively acting as a blockade for its low-cost alternative Uber brand product. Further, the company claims this amendment is due to the successful lobbying efforts of the Taxi industry which intends to prevent viable alternatives of its service.

I understand the Council is now faced with a difficult decision between allowing market forces to dictate new/improved products or services or pass law protecting thousands of DC taxi drivers and those who depend on them.

I am a proud user of Uber services but appreciate the taxi industry and its effect on immigrant communities. I implore the Council to pass law which protects these communities but also supports product innovation (especially regarding products introduced at a lower price point).

Thank you for your time,

--

**C. Kidd III, Ph.D**

**From:** [Dan Seals](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:15:30 PM

---

Dear Councilmember Wells,

I was just made aware of the so called Minimum Fare Language in the "Uber Amendment" that will be voted on tomorrow, and I am writing to voice my stern opposition to this amendment. I realize that the Taxi Cab commission has a fair amount of influence in the city council, but manufacturing a floor ceiling is an archaic method of ensuring the DC Cab's artificially inflated prices. As a DC resident, I both live and work in Ward 6, and I hope that you will take my feelings and concerns to heart. Uber has been a great alternative to the poor DC Taxi situation, and allows for a much safer alternative as I do not have to carry cash or worry about tipping the driver.

The taxi commission is afraid that their business model is in jeopardy, well unfortunately it IS in jeopardy. They need to innovate, offer credit cards and unify their fleet. They could also, offer a smartphone app etc. Imagine if when Netflix was starting, the US Government artificially said they had to charge 5 times what Blockbuster charged to rent a movie. Maybe Blockbuster would still be in business but would that have been the best solution? We would have been deprived of a less expensive, more convenient and forward thinking alternative in our free market. Next they'll ask you to raise the rates on DC Capital BikeShare because it is cutting into their bottom line. Hyperbole aside, taxi's in DC are here to stay, Uber may be an alternative, but let the market play out as it should without jeopardizing the first Taxi alternative that actually works.

Please Strike DOWN the Minimum Fare Language from the Uber Amendment.

Sincerely,

*Dan Seals*

IT Support Specialist / Network Administrator  
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee  
120 Maryland AVE NE  
Wa 002  
p  
f

Home Address:

130 M ST NE APT 1109  
Washington DC, 20002

The views in this email are solely my own.



**From:** [Matthew Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:14:30 PM

---

Councilmember Catania,

I'm a DC voter, a homeowner and an Uber user. I think the service provides some healthy competition for the taxi service in the District, and I think the Minimum Fare language in the bill that's coming up for a vote tomorrow is a mistake. I'm so excited to see the growing number of transportation options in the city, from bike lanes and bike sharing to ZipCar, Car2Go and the streetcar. I think Uber is an important part of the transportation flexibility that will make the city an even better place to live in the years to come, and I urge you to do what you can to make sure Uber is allowed to compete alongside all of these other services.

Thank you,  
Matthew Bryan

  
Washington, DC

**From:** [Britton Davis](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:47 PM

---

Dear DC City Council,

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that is facing a planned vote tomorrow. For months now, the Uber car service has proven to be a reliable and preferred alternative for transportation in the city for many people, myself included. It is convenient and safe and a much better alternative in many situations than being forced to stand out on the street and try to find a taxi cab. The drivers and vehicles are almost always in better condition than standard taxi cabs in DC. While I still find myself using taxi cabs in DC when I know it will be easy to find one, Uber has provided a very useful alternative when I'm in an area where cabs are difficult to locate, or it is late at night and I don't feel safe standing on a corner waiting for one.

Recently Uber announced plans to roll out a lower cost service using an all-hybrid fleet of vehicles. However, your council is considering an amendment that will make this roll out impossible here in DC in what can only be an effort to protect the monopoly taxi cabs have on publicly available transportation in DC. Yet, residents get very little in return for this "deal." The taxi cabs in this city are appalling in several ways. Most are in terrible condition (how they pass inspection, yet on numerous occasions my own vehicle which is clearly a decade newer and in better shape has failed, is beyond me). The drivers are often rude, inconsiderate, smell atrocious, or refuse to put on the air conditioning when asked. Many continue to talk on their cell phones even though it is illegal. Many still try to refuse passengers based on where they are going. It is 2012 and for whatever reason every single cab in this city refuses to accept credit cards. Many drivers inconsistently apply changes in rules to passengers (e.g., additional passenger charges, fuel surcharge, baggage fees, etc.). And without fail, most will drive in illogical directions in what can only be an attempt to increase the fare. I recognize the city has tried over the years to push for improvements in service and taxi cab conditions, but in the 13 years I have lived in DC, there has been little relief. The cabs are just as bad, the drivers still as rude, and the fact there are almost ZERO hybrid cabs or cabs that take credit cards in 2012 is flabbergasting. I briefly lived in Boston and travel to New York City often, and if they can have newer cabs with credit card machines, there is no reason our Nation's capital cannot.

To try to run out a service that is willing to provide consumers and taxpaying residents the services the taxi cab commission refuses to (and your council refuses to require them to) is equally flabbergasting. The taxi cab commission is not keeping up with consumer demand. If you're not willing to force change on them, then you should at the very least allow free competition in the city that would possibly promote these improvements through market forces. And if nothing else, you should promote the use of hybrid vehicles in the city by allowing Uber to roll out this program and the promotion of a safe and affordable alternative when cabs are not readily available. People shouldn't be left on the street corner at night to try to find one. I can't imagine how many people in DC have been mugged walking home

because they were unable to find a cab in the city.

Please vote to eliminate this amendment and allow Uber to effectively compete in DC. If you don't, it leaves me little choice but to believe you're more attentive to what the taxi cab commission (and its droves of non-DC resident drivers) want rather than the taxpaying citizens you answer to and who elect you.

Thank you,

Britton Davis

**From:** [Matthew Bryan](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:13:32 PM

---

Councilmember Wells,

I'm a Ward 6 voter, a homeowner and an Uber user. I think the service provides some healthy competition for the taxi service in the District, and I think the Minimum Fare language in the bill that's coming up for a vote tomorrow is a mistake. I'm so excited to see the growing number of transportation options in the city, from bike lanes and bike sharing to ZipCar, Car2Go and the streetcar. I think Uber is an important part of the transportation flexibility that will make the city an even better place to live in the years to come, and I urge you to do what you can to make sure Uber is allowed to compete alongside all of these other services.

Thank you,  
Matthew Bryan

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], DC

**From:** [Himanshu Desai](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:33 PM

---

Hello,

I travel to DC multiple times a month have found Uber to be a 'breath of fresh air' to the antiquated taxi system of DC. Old worn out taxis that only accept cash and refuse to take you to many areas of DC depending upon time of day, distance, etc. Uber is the easiest and safest mode of transportation that I have found.

Please don't make the process of obtaining such an amazing service become a choice at an extravagant price.  
Fix the current system instead of penalizing an innovator in the marketplace.

Your current taxi drivers & companies don't care about their customers.  
It is an inbred and corrupt system that needs to be overhauled badly.  
I have travel all over the country and DC has the worst taxi services of any major city I have traveled to.

Please don't ruin the one positive that remains of the taxi system.

**Himanshu Desai**  
VP Client Solutions  
newBrandAnalytics  
509 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(m) [REDACTED]  
(e) [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Brian Weeks](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:24 PM

---

Councilman Wells -

I am writing to urge you strike down the Minimum Fare language from the Uber Amendment. I find it abhorable that the Council would consider supporting the taxi industry in this instance. The service provided by the taxi industry is substandard at best. I have had too many terrible experiences with DC taxis to count, including drivers taking wrong routes, getting lost, not picking up confirmed rides (multiple times) and more. If anything, the city should be looking to provide even more competition with taxis to get them to better their service. This language does not do that. In fact, it harms a reliable service on which I now rely. Please vote to strike down the Minimum Fare language.

Your constituent,

Brian Weeks

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20002

**From:** [Hopkins, John L. \(HQ-JA000\)](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:23 PM

---

Tommy,

Please do all you can to strike down the **MINIMUM FARE language from the** UBER amendment. It seems focused on protecting the Taxi industry from competition.

Respectfully,

John L. Hopkins

Chief of Staff

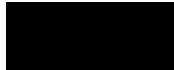
Office of the Chief Information Officer

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Office at 1225 I Street NW

Mail via 300 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20546

 office  
cell

**From:** [Himanshu Desai](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:12 PM

---

Hello,

I travel to DC multiple times a month have found Uber to be a 'breath of fresh air' to the antiquated taxi system of DC. Old worn out taxis that only accept cash and refuse to take you to many areas of DC depending upon time of day, distance, etc. Uber is the easiest and safest mode of transportation that I have found.

Please don't make the process of obtaining such an amazing service become a choice at an extravagant price.  
Fix the current system instead of penalizing an innovator in the marketplace.

Your current taxi drivers & companies don't care about their customers.  
It is an inbred and corrupt system that needs to be overhauled badly.  
I have travel all over the country and DC has the worst taxi services of any major city I have traveled to.

Please don't ruin the one positive that remains of the taxi system.

**Himanshu Desai**  
VP Client Solutions  
newBrandAnalytics  
509 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(m) [REDACTED]  
(e) [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Stephanie Craig](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:10 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Please strike the minimum fare language from the uber amendment. Because of the laws of the district, cabs have become increasingly unreliable and inconvenient. Unlike cabs, with Uber I don't have to go to a dark ATM to get cash to get a safe ride home and I'm guaranteed on a clean and safe vehicle. As a single woman who relies on Uber to get safely home from a night out, I strenuously disagree with targeting the services of Uber.

I've been a Hill resident for seven years and have overlooked many of your initiatives that have made me shake my head (chickens in the city?) but this issue will cause me to get out my checkbook for your next opponent. As a member of District council, you should be encourage business growth not discouraging it.

Stephanie Craig  
12th and Independence Ave.

**From:** [David Hotz](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:12:08 PM

---

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I was made aware that you may soon be voting on an amendment that would essentially make Uber and other sedan services prohibitively expensive. As a DC resident in Columbia Heights, I would strongly encourage you to vote against this amendment.

Thank you for your consideration,  
David Hotz



Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [B.G](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:31 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment being voted on by the council tomorrow, 7/10. Your consideration is appreciated!

Regards,  
Billy Gormley  
Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Travis Swanson](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** UBER Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:21 PM

---

To: The Honorable David Catania  
From: Travis Swanson, Resident

Councilman Catania,

I am writing to urge you please vote against the Uber amendment tomorrow that would prevent the service from lowering their rates. I understand the concern taxi drivers and taxi companies may have with a service like Uber coming into the city. I think what concerns them the most is that Uber's business is taking off because in Washington taxi cabs generally do not take credit cards, they selectively pick up customers based on their destinations (it is not uncommon at night to have a taxi lock their doors, roll down the window and ask where you are going before they will let you in. If your answer is somewhere that they don't think they can get a return fare they will drive off and look for someone else) and worst of all they selectively stop for customers based on their race or how they're dressed (yes, I have been told this straight from a driver) and witnessed a taxi on 17th Street NW once drive past an African American man looking for a taxi to go up one block and pick up a Caucasian woman. Uber doesn't do any of this. They take credit cards, they always have polite drivers who never express frustration because they have to go to somewhere in the District that is "off the beaten path" and they never refuse service based on race. Because of this, taxi drivers know they're in for some serious competition because customers are likely to choose the service where the service is being provided by someone who respects them.

Please don't vote to only allow the most elite people in the city to afford this service. All residents of the District of Columbia deserve to have access to great transportation in the city.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

Travis Swanson

Washington, DC 20009

--

Travis R. Swanson

**From:** [Himanshu Desai](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:11:07 PM

---

Hello,

I travel to DC multiple times a month have found Uber to be a 'breath of fresh air' to the antiquated taxi system of DC. Old worn out taxis that only accept cash and refuse to take you to many areas of DC depending upon time of day, distance, etc. Uber is the easiest and safest mode of transportation that I have found.

Please don't make the process of obtaining such an amazing service become a choice at an extravagant price.  
Fix the current system instead of penalizing an innovator in the marketplace.

Your current taxi drivers & companies don't care about their customers.  
It is an inbred and corrupt system that needs to be overhauled badly.  
I have travel all over the country and DC has the worst taxi services of any major city I have traveled to.

Please don't ruin the one positive that remains of the taxi system.

**Himanshu Desai**  
VP Client Solutions  
newBrandAnalytics  
509 7th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
(m) [REDACTED]  
(e) [REDACTED]

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**From:** [Nick Choate](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:24 PM

---

Mr. Wells:

I understand the DC Council will likely vote tomorrow on taxi modernization legislation (which I strongly support). I am, however, concerned about the inclusion of an excessive minimum fare provision in the so-called Uber Amendment.

As an eight-year resident of Capitol Hill I know firsthand how difficult it can be to find taxi cabs in DC willing to take passengers to an address that ends in NE or SE. Never once, in my experience, has Uber applied such discrimination to riders. For this reason I ask that you work to strike the minimum fare requirement in the Uber provision or at the very least modify it to ensure it is no greater than a DC taxi cab's minimum fare.

Residents and visitors alike will benefit from increased competition in DC's taxi market. Especially those of us who on a regular basis are denied service by District taxis in violation of existing laws that are ignored by the industry and unenforced by the city.

Your support for true competition in the taxi industry would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nick Choate

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20003

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**To:** [Boardman-Schroyer, Kilin \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:10:06 PM

---

---

**From:** Crow, John  
**To:** Brown, Michael (Council)  
**Sent:** Mon Jul 09 16:49:36 2012  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment

Dear Mr. Brown,

As a resident of the District I urge to please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that the Council will be voting on tomorrow.

Thank you,

*John P. Crow*

International Tax  
Marriott International  
10400 Fernwood Road  
Dept. 52/924.13  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
U.S.A.

+ [REDACTED] (ph)  
+ [REDACTED] (cell)  
+ [REDACTED] (direct fax)

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**From:** [Robert Vlasis](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:09:28 PM

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Please do not pass the Uber Amendment tomorrow, which would otherwise require a minimum fare for Uber rides. Uber is a much-needed alternative to the taxi service in DC, which is unreliable, over-priced, and unprofessional. Uber has a right to operate its superior car service at competitive rates -- please do not take that right away.

Thanks,  
Robert Vlasis  
DC Ward 2 Resident



**From:** [Sid Pandit](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:08:45 PM

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DC City Counsel Members,

I was recently made aware of the proposed Uber Amendment that is being voted on tomorrow, Tuesday July 9, 2012, and I write with the hope that each of you will vote against the measure for a number of reasons.

As an initial matter, I understand that the City Counsel is charged with protecting citizens and visitors in Washington, D.C., and I commend you for your roles in doing a wonderful job thus far. My concern with the Uber Amendment stems from direct experience with DC taxis. Having lived and worked in DC and patronized establishments all over the city, I have had about 15 years of experience with the DC taxicab system. A few years ago, the Counsel voted to abolish the zone system, which eliminated many of the problems that existed, including riders being overcharged for cab fares. Despite the addition of the meter system, which DC taxicab owners resisted, problems persist.

As just one example of the problems that exist, I frequently attempt to take cabs from DC to Maryland, only to hear a multitude of excuses about why a cab driver isn't going that way, doesn't have enough gas, or otherwise will not take me. I am not alone in this experience. On a number of occasions, my colleagues and I have resorted to dialing 911 in order to settle disputes of this type, despite our willingness to pay the appropriate fare. Typically, the taxicab drivers will resort to a bartering system, turning off the meter and inquiring about how much we will pay them to take us to our desired destination. Indeed, a recent Washington Post article highlighted similar problems that exist at Union Station after DC taxicab inspectors are no longer on duty.

These and other problems led me to try Uber Cab. Uber is a clean and convenient service that helps off duty limosines and customers connect. Since I discovered Uber Cab, I have not had one problem getting around the city, or from DC to Maryland or Virginia. Part of the reason for this is that Uber holds their drivers accountable, allowing a rider to rate their driver on a star system. Another advantage is that the system is cashless, with payments made through a credit card. In short, there are no disadvantages to this system. Those who choose to partake may pay a premium, but I have found that it is well worth it to avoid the hassle of engaging in altercations with taxicab drivers.

To be sure, I certainly understand that the DC Counsel is trying to protect citizens and visitors from unscrupulous businesses that seek to take advantage of unsuspecting customers. Uber Cab is not one of those businesses, and should not be unfairly targeted for providing a service for which there is a demand. In short, I would ask that each of you vote against the Uber Amendment so that I, and others like me, can continue to enjoy the benefits of a company that is providing service that is simply superior to the DC taxicab system currently in place. Voting in favor of this measure would be nothing short of artificially altering the marketplace when a clear demand exists for this service.

Sincerely,

Sid Pandit

**From:** [Jason Corum](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:07:51 PM

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Mr. Wells- Please strike down the Uber Amendment during tomorrow's vote:

<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>

As a resident of Ward 6 (even with the new laws governing taxis in the books) I have STILL experienced issues with taxis. Some drivers still refuse to take me to my home in SE while others refuse to accept credit cards.

Our taxi system is broken and Uber offers me an alternative that (knock on wood) seems to work reliably.

Again, please help strike down the Uber Amendment.

Jason Corum

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Phil Bradley](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:50 PM

---

Councilman Catania,  
I hope this note finds you well. I wanted to inform you of my opposition to the Uber Amendment being considered before The Council.

Part of having a fair market place is offering a premium price that others are willing to pay. I have been pleased with Uber's addition to the Washington area and believe it'd be unfair to enact such a burdensome regulation on them to protect the taxi commission.

I don't need to tell you the number of complaints I can lodge about many of Washington's taxis, who frequently don't show or deny service.

Regardless, Uber is a premium service that I have used when I wouldn't have taken a cab, but rather driven myself.

Thank you for allowing me the time to voice my opinion.  
Best,  
Philip Bradley


**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:05:11 PM

---

Dear Chairman:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:59 PM

---

Dear Mr. Wells:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Lenwood Brooks](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:51 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,

As a registered voter in the District of Columbia, I will be closely following your vote on the Uber amendment tomorrow. It is very hard to get a cab in my neighborhood in Ward 6--even when I call ahead--and I find it offensive that some on the council want to prohibit Uber from lowering prices.

Thank you for your time.

Lenwood Brooks

[REDACTED]

WDC 20002


**From:** [Lauren Forgie](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:42 PM

---

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing to ask that you strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

Best,  
Lauren Forgie

  
Washington, DC 20001



**From:** [Lawrence J. Gordin](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:40 PM

---

Mr. Wells,

Today, I was notified of the pending Uber Amendment which would establish unrealistic Minimum Fares and as a result directly inhibit a viable taxi cab alternative. As both an Uber and DC taxi user, I find the ability to have a choice to be vital to consumer protection. Uber provides a very good, safe and effective service allowing customers to instantly determine if a car is around without the hassle of calling various cab companies. Uber is also planning a green initiative to allow cheaper fares for use of eco-friendly vehicles.

It seems unreasonable in today's day and age to artificially increase the price for transportation by enacting a Minimum Fare as a legal requirement against a very promising nationwide transportation alternative. I am asking for your vote tomorrow to be against this rule.

Thank you for your service and understanding.

Sincerely,  
Lawrence Gordin  
Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Amber Francis](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:29 PM

---

As a resident of DC and user of Uber, I oppose the Uber amendment that is being voted on tomorrow. I hope you will vote to strike down the minimum fare language in the amendment.

Thank you,

Amber

**From:** [B.G](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:04:12 PM

---

Mr. Catania,

Please strike down the minimum fare language in the Uber amendment being voted on by the council tomorrow, 7/10. Your consideration is appreciated!

Regards,  
Billy Gormley  
Ward 6 Resident

**From:** [Jake Olson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:41 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I am writing to request that you vote to **strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment**. It is my understanding that the Uber amendment would enact a price floor to set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. I believe this is excessive intervention in a well functioning marketplace and, again, ask that you vote to strike down the minimum fare language as your constituent.

V/R,

Jacob Olson

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 2000 [REDACTED]

**From:** [Clark Thomason](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:03:41 PM

---

Councilman,

I believe that it is ludicrous for you to pass any law that will artificially inflates the price of a QUALITY, clean, timely, efficient form of transportation. Unlike the taxi cabs in Washington, Uber respects their clients and their patronage. Honestly, I can't believe DC allows most cabs to stay on the road. With a city that is so progressive with their laws, to think that you would consider a law that will keep hybrid fuel efficient and cost effective cars off the road, in an effort to protect the high polluting, cabs of this city, baffles me.

I am a resident of Washington, DC, and I ask that you do not consider this amendment, and vote against any law that would set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

Thank you!

Clark Thomason



Ward 6, Washington DC

**From:** [Scott Booth](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:42 PM

---

Mr. Wells:

I am a constituent in your Ward and am writing to you in regard to the Uber Amendment. This Amendment seems to be preventing Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by enacting a price floor at an arbitrary level. All this amendment will do is prevent a reliable, safe, high quality transport alternative.

As your constituent, I ask that you act to prevent this from passing.

Kind Regards,  
Scott

**From:** [Clark Thomason](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:02:01 PM

---

Councilman,

I believe that it is ludicrous for you to pass any law that will artificially inflates the price of a QUALITY, clean, timely, efficient form of transportation. Unlike the taxi cabs in Washington, Uber respects their clients and their patronage. Honestly, I can't believe DC allows most cabs to stay on the road. With a city that is so progressive with their laws, to think that you would consider a law that will keep hybrid fuel efficient and cost effective cars off the road, in an effort to protect the high polluting, cabs of this city, baffles me.

I am a resident of Washington, DC, and I ask that you do not consider this amendment, and vote against any law that would set Uber's minimum fare at today's rates and **no less than 5 times a taxi's minimum fare.**

Thank you!

Clark Thomason



Zone 6, Washington DC

**From:** [Sadina Montani](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:29 PM

---

Council Member Wells:

I only just learned of the Uber Amendment, which I understand the Council is set to vote on shortly. I live in Ward 6 near the Potomac Avenue metro, and I have a consistently difficult time requesting cabs to come pick me up in our neighborhood, and (even more frequently) drop me off from downtown. Uber provides a reasonable alternative to taxicabs and, in my opinion, has forced some increase in customer service. It disappoints me greatly that the City Council would hastily pass a law negatively impacting the transportation options for District residents - especially those in your own Ward, which cab drivers often refuse to service.

I urge you to reconsider the Uber Amendment - or, at the very least, the section that mandates "The minimum fare for sedan-class vehicles shall be five times the drop rate for taxicabs, as established by 31 DCMR § 801.3 (a)". It is not an amendment that will serve your constituents well.

Many thanks,  
Sadina Montani  
Ward 6 Resident



**From:** [David White](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:59:03 PM

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Dear Tommy,

I'm writing to urge you to vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment to the taxi modernization bill.

I'm a huge fan of Uber. The fares are transparent and straightforward. The cars are clean. The drivers are courteous. And credit cards are always accepted. It's impossible to make any such generalization about taxis in DC.

It is my hope that Uber's presence in DC will force taxi drivers to compete.

It is not the role of the DC City Council to keep transportation prices artificially high and shield the taxi industry from competition.

Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,  
David White

[REDACTED]  
Washington DC  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Josh Smith](#)  
**To:** [Josh Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image012.png](#)

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As a Maryland resident that frequently does business in DC, I am in favor of a taxicab service that offers hybrid vehicles at rates less than current taxicab minimums while differnciating traditional sedan car services which are expected to be a more expensive service. Please vote to Strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment tomorrow.

Regards,

**Joshua Smith**  
Director of Business Development



1116 West Street, Suite C  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Office: [REDACTED] x110  
Cell: [REDACTED]  
[www.nextstepdesign.com](http://www.nextstepdesign.com)



**From:** [Madelyn Smith Orfitelli](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:55 PM  
**Importance:** High

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To the Members of the DC Council:

As a resident of McLean, VA, you may think that I don't have reason to contact you. However, you should understand that your proposed (egregious) Uber amendment will most certainly affect my actions with respect to spending money in the city. We don't drink and drive – period. So that means to have a night out in DC, be it a nice dinner or meeting up at happy hour, we use Uber to get to and from. Calling a DC cab simply won't happen; they are unreliable and unpleasant. So without Uber, I'm spending my money in McLean, Arlington and Alexandria. Please bear this in mind.

Respectfully,  
Madelyn Smith Orfitelli  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Phillip Lundie](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:50 PM

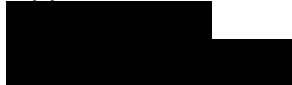
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Hello,

I am writing you asking you to strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment. Uber is allowing DC to move forward and leverage technology to best navigate this great city. Preventing this is an embarrassment, I can't even get a DC cab to take a credit card payment.

This city is full of young professionals buzzing about technology, don't prevent us from continue to adopt new technologies to make our lives easier.

Phillip Lundie  
Systems Engineer  
Apple Inc.



**From:** [George Foulard](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:58:06 PM

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Council Member Evans,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the pending legislation that would set a minimum fare to be charged by Uber's fleet. I feel very strongly that Uber's ability to set prices as they see fit will only serve to better the services provided by DC's aging and somewhat unreliable taxicab fleet.

Thank you for your attention.

Best,

George Foulard  
Resident, Ward 2

**From:** [Jeff Zeleny](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:57:33 PM

---

Dear Councilman Catania,


I am a resident of the District of Columbia -- and a constituent in your district -- and am writing to you about the Uber amendment before the Council tomorrow.

I would urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment.

The taxi cabs are an embarrassment to Washington. They are unreliable, often unsafe and not fit for the type of city Washington is trying to become. Uber, and their proposed new Hybrid service, will bring needed competition. I would ask you to consider this as you make your decision.

Thank you.

Best,  
Jeff Zeleny

  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Brady Nolan](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Graham, Jim \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Bowser, Muriel \(COUNCIL\)](#); [McDuffie, Kenyan \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Alexander, Yvette \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Barry, Marion \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:57:15 PM

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DC Elected Officials,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this email. As a DC resident and local business person, I feel it is my duty to write you all to share my opinion on the Uber amendment and ask you to please strike down the minimum fare language within it. Since Uber has become live in the district, my wife and I have used it everytime it has made sense. They are extremely efficient, clean, quick, and offer a pleasant ride. This is exactly the opposite of the cab system in DC.

I understand the cab companies have a lot of political pull but their product is horrendous. The cars often smell terrible, are extremely hot, and drivers are always screaming into their phones. I visit Manhattan often and its a much better experience.

Further, the Mayor has made a point to try to build DC into a start up hub and he, as well as you all, should be commended for it. Voting for the minimum fare language will make this great city appear just the opposite.

So, please, as a resident who is longing for a better option than city cabs, please vote to strike down the minimum fare amendment. And, as a businessman who wants to see the start up scene in DC continue to expand, please vote to strike down the minimum fare amendment.

Thanks so much for the consideration.

Best,

Brady Nolan

--

Brady Nolan



**From:** [Phillip Lundie](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:56:38 PM

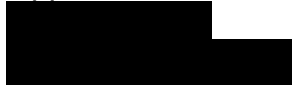
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Hello,

I am writing you asking you to strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment. Uber is allowing DC to move forward and leverage technology to best navigate this great city. Preventing this is an embarrassment, I can't even get a DC cab to take a credit card payment.

This city is full of young professionals buzzing about technology, don't prevent us from continue to adopt new technologies to make our lives easier.

Phillip Lundie  
Systems Engineer  
Apple Inc.






**From:** [David Edmund Black](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:56:37 PM

---

Councilman Catania,

I respectfully ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
David Black

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Jonathan Kuhl](#)  
**To:** [Evans, Jack \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Orange, Vincent B. \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:53 PM

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Dear Councilmen,

I am writing to ask you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment up before the Council tomorrow. All too often I have experienced unreliable and rude taxi service in our city, but have encountered exceptional transportation service from Uber. Please do not vote to effectively end this important transportation service.

Sincerely,  
Jon Kuhl

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], DC 20005

--

Jon Kuhl  
[REDACTED] (cell)

**From:** [Tali Wenger](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:51 PM

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Mr. Catania,

As a resident of DC for over nine years I am disappointed to hear DC government is considering negatively impacting free competition in the transportation market. Uber is a new option to the city and greatly improves transportation options for city residents. The Taxicab Commission is attempting to prevent competition which will in turn keep prices high. At a time when many of us are struggling with increased housing prices and costs of living, I expect our city government to take necessary steps to help our residents keep transportation costs low. Please do what you can tomorrow to protect DC's best interests.

Best wishes,  
Avital Wenger


**From:** [David Edmund Black](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:49 PM

---

Councilman Wells,

I respectfully ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
David Black

  
Washington, DC 20001

**From:** [Dr. Jay Greenstein](#)  
**To:** [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:43 PM  
**Importance:** High

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As a Capitol Hill resident and an absolutely disgruntled user of the DC cab system, I'm APPAULED at the idea that you would legislate higher rates for users of the Uber service. Have you ever used a DC cab before? Have you ever made a call to get to the airport and they never show up? Why do government officials (YOU!!!) think you know more than the market?

The market dictated a company like Uber because cab service in DC is PATHETIC. Now you want to control the markets by instituting this legislation? Why do you think you're smarter than the markets? YOU'RE NOT!!!

Government needs to get out of the way and let the markets drive improvements and innovation. If DC cabs lose money because Uber is a better service at a better price, then the DC cab service will have to INNOVATE AND IMPROVE. That only makes our city and our society better.

Especially Mr. Wells in my district...DO NOT PASS THIS DISGUSTING PIECE OF LEGISLATION.



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**From:** [Jeff Zeleny](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:31 PM

---


Dear Councilman Brown,

I am a resident of the District of Columbia and am writing to you about the Uber amendment before the Council tomorrow.

I would urge you to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. The taxi cabs are an embarrassment to Washington. They are unreliable, often unsafe and not fit for the type of city Washington is trying to become. Uber, and their proposed new Hybrid service, will bring needed competition to the city. I would ask you to consider this as you make your decision.

Thank you.

Best,  
Jeff Zeleny

  
Washington, DC 20009


**From:** [David Edmund Black](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:28 PM

---

Councilman Brown,

I respectfully ask you to strike down the MINIMUM FARE language from the Uber Amendment.

Thank you,  
David Black



**From:** [George Foulard](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:27 PM

---

Council Member Wells,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the pending legislation that would set a minimum fare to be charged by Uber's fleet. I feel very strongly that Uber's ability to set prices as they see fit will only serve to better the services provided by DC's aging and somewhat unreliable taxicab fleet.

Thank you for your attention.

Best,

George Foulard  
Resident, Ward 2



**From:** [Catherine Brack](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:55:17 PM

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Mr. Wells:

This is in reference to a vote you will be making tomorrow in reference to Uber.

Uber is a wonderful service, and such a welcome return to civility for those of us who, for one reason or another, have opted to not have a car in DC.

In my 13 years living in DC, 4 1/2 of which have been in your ward, I have had many bad cab experiences. The introduction of Uber to DC as a travel option has been a godsend. The cars are clean, the drivers know the routes, and the experience is civilized, vs filthy cabs with little ventilation, cab drivers who refuse fares (don't even think about Chevy Chase to Eastern Market), fare padding by taking circuitous routes, and the risk that any single female takes in even hailing a cab.

Please allow Uber to not only remain in operation in DC, but to provide its customers with options, including lower cost options such as UberX. Competition is what makes for a stronger economy, and simple innovation by companies like Uber is what makes this country great.

Thank you for your consideration.

Catherine Brack



**From:** [Phillip Lundie](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:54:28 PM

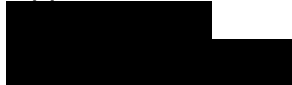
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Hello,

I am writing you asking you to strike down the "Minimum Fare" language from the Uber Amendment. Uber is allowing DC to move forward and leverage technology to best navigate this great city. Preventing this is an embarrassment, I can't even get a DC cab to take a credit card payment.

This city is full of young professionals buzzing about technology, don't prevent us from continue to adopt new technologies to make our lives easier.

Phillip Lundie  
Systems Engineer  
Apple Inc.



**From:** [Herb Caudill](#)  
**To:** [Cheh, Mary \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#); [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:54:12 PM

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I see that the Council is considering acting to prevent Uber from being a viable alternative to taxis by imposing a minimum fare that is at least 5 times a taxi's minimum fare. <http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>

I don't understand the rationale behind this at all. If Uber can provide a service to compete with taxis at a reasonable cost, there's no reason for the government to coerce them to raise their prices. The only conceivable purpose I can see for this legislation is to protect the politically powerful taxi industry. The council's role in regulating taxicabs should be to protect consumers, not taxi drivers.

Herb Caudill



**From:** [George Foulard](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:54:00 PM

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Council Member Brown,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the pending legislation that would set a minimum fare to be charged by Uber's fleet. I feel very strongly that Uber's ability to set prices as they see fit will only serve to better the services provided by DC's aging and somewhat unreliable taxicab fleet.

Thank you for your attention.

Best,

George Foulard

**From:** [Crow, John](#)  
**To:** [Catania, David A. \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:52:45 PM

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Dear Mr. Catania,

As a resident of the District I urge to please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that the Council will be voting on tomorrow.

Thank you,

*John P. Crow*

International Tax  
Marriott International  
10400 Fernwood Road  
Dept. 52/924.13  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
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**From:** [Andrew Foxwell](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:52:22 PM

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<http://blog.uber.com/2012/07/09/uber-amendment/>

Please consider the Uber amendment, Tommy.

Thanks,  
Andrew

[REDACTED]

--

Andrew Foxwell  
[REDACTED]  
@andrewfoxwell  
[www.andrewfoxwell.com](http://www.andrewfoxwell.com)

**From:** [Crow, John](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:51:53 PM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

As a resident of the District I urge to please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that the Council will be voting on tomorrow.

Thank you,

*John P. Crow*

International Tax  
Marriott International  
10400 Fernwood Road  
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Bethesda, MD 20817  
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**From:** [McCrea Dunton](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:50:48 PM

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Dear Mr. Wells,

As a resident of Ward 6, I encourage you to strike down the "Uber Amendment" in the vote tomorrow. As a constituent in a growing neighborhood, it would be a shame to limit the citizens of DC to the union dominated taxi system. Since moving to DC, I've stopped taking taxis due to their unsafe and unfriendly demeanor. I've never felt comfortable in a DC cab. Uber is a great service that takes pride in their work. It would be a great injustice to give the taxi unions an even greater advantage by limiting this great company.

Thanks,  
Mac



**From:** [Crow, John](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Michael \(Council\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:49:53 PM

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Dear Mr. Brown,

As a resident of the District I urge to please strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment that the Council will be voting on tomorrow.

Thank you,

*John P. Crow*

International Tax  
Marriott International  
10400 Fernwood Road  
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--[www.marriott.com/environment](http://www.marriott.com/environment)

**From:** [Anne Russell Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Wells, Thomas \(COUNCIL\)](#)  
**Subject:** Uber Amendment  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2012 4:46:50 PM

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Please vote to strike down the minimum fare language from the Uber Amendment. DC residents deserve a reasonably priced alternative to taxicab transportation.

Thank you,

Anne Thompson

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20003